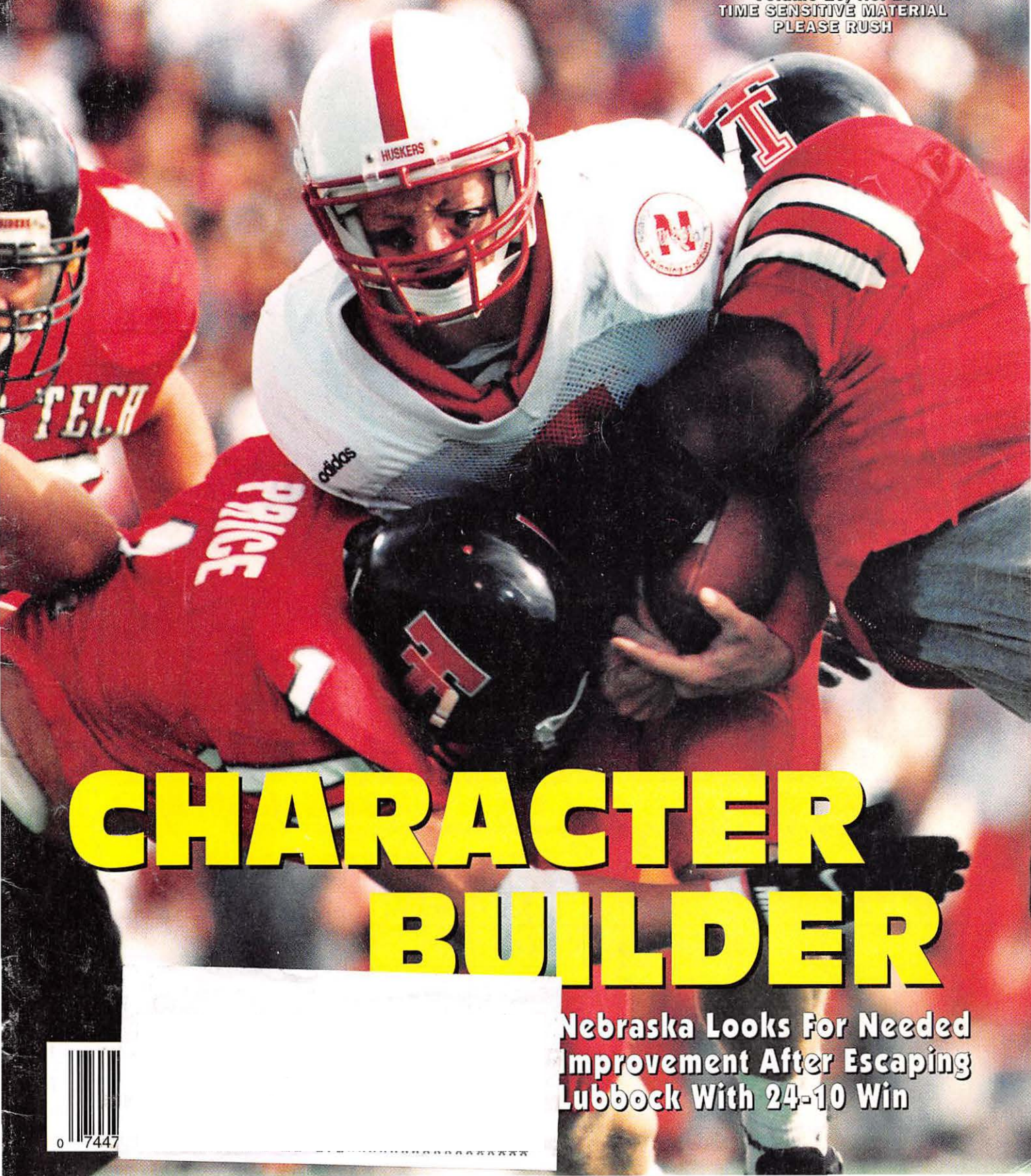


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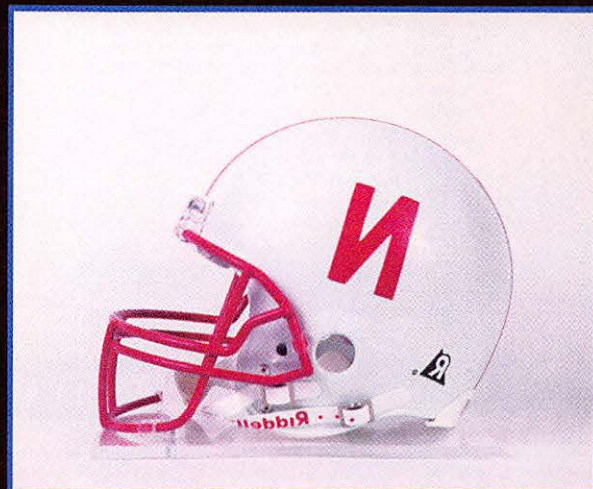
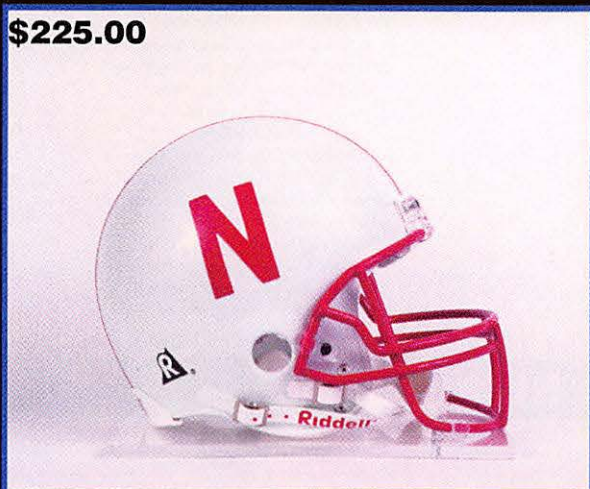
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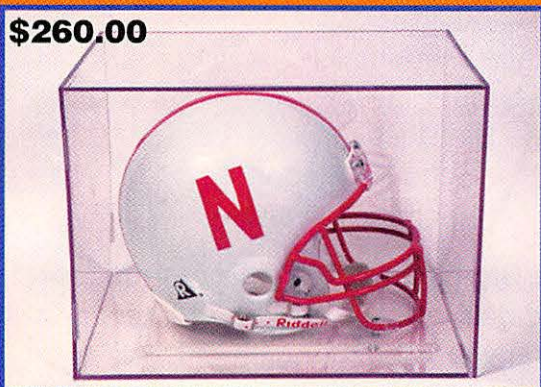


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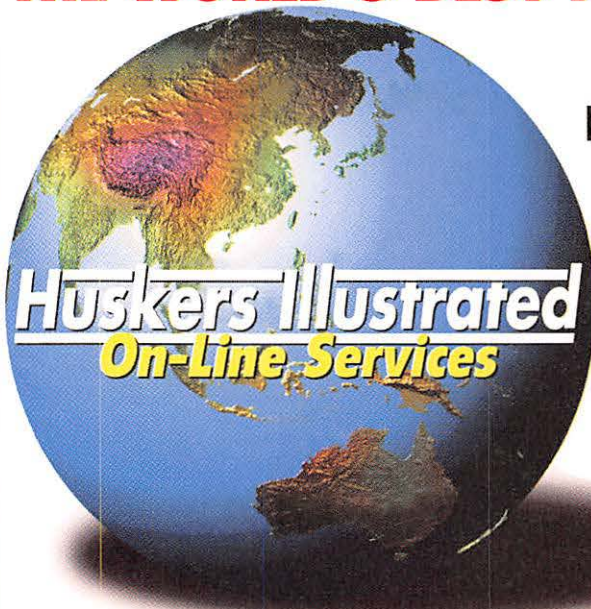
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*Huskers Illustrated* (ISSN 0279-3474) is published weekly from September through November except open dates; bi-monthly June/July; monthly January through May, August. Single issue cost \$2.95; subscription rate for one year (17 issues) is \$49.90. First Class postage is available for an additional charge of \$16.00 per year. Foreign postage \$34.00.

*Huskers Illustrated* is published by College Sports Communications, Inc., 4099 McEwen, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75244-5039, (972) 742-2000 or (800) 397-3715. Periodicals paid at Dallas, Texas and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Huskers Illustrated*, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501.

Address all editorial related correspondence to *Huskers Illustrated*, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

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## Email Addresses

Publisher: huskerspub@xcscx.com

Editor: huskersedit@xcscx.com

Circulation: huskerscirc@xcscx.com

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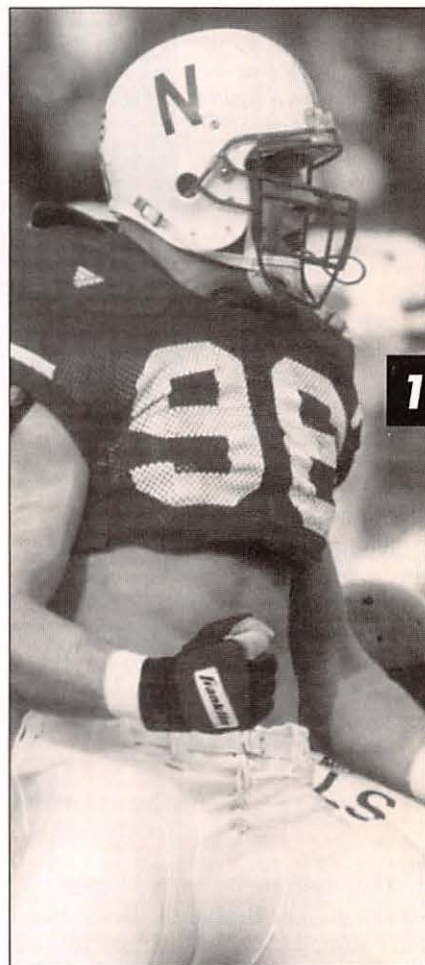
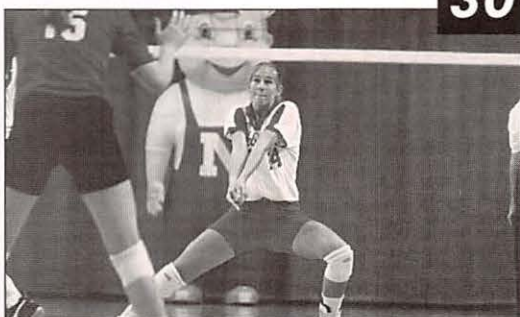
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### 38 A Breed Apart

Kicker Kris Brown and special teamers earn their respect on game day.

### 42 Best Of The Best: The Numbers Game (Jerseys 51-60)

Tom Novak changed numbers three times during his All-American career and could have made our list at any of them. But for all intensive purposes, "Trainwreck" will always be remembered as the best to wear No. 60.



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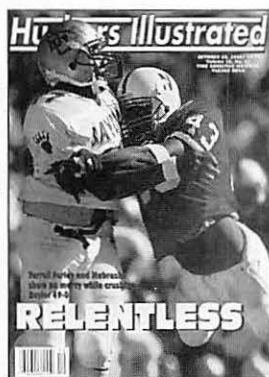
# LETTERS

The Oct. 5th edition of *Huskies Illustrated* (letters section) provided us with an opportunity to read from a former "fair weather fan."

Such voices are like a drop of rain falling on an ocean of water — their impact isn't worth mentioning.

What the letter did for me, however, was remind us of how Nebraska football doesn't come down to a single play, an outcome of one game or even the possible loss of a chance to vie for the national championship.

Nebraska athletics are "a way of life." Any state where you can see people drive their cars on Saturday morning from the western corners of the state to see a three-hour football game some several hundred miles away has something going for it that can't be bottled or sold.



Dean Hatfield  
Roesburg, Ore.

I have thoroughly enjoyed your series on "The Best of the Best," but felt compelled to chastise you for the short shrift you gave to Turner Gill at No. 12.

Gill was the Tommie Frazier of his day, almost leading the Huskers to two national championships in 1982 and 1983, losing only two of his thirty games in three years as a starter. He was as magnificent as Tommie Frazier at quarterback, but he just couldn't beat the Penn State players in striped shirts in 1982 or the Miami crowd in 1983. Since he was Tommie's quarterback coach, I like to think that his experience and success as the other great Husker option quarterback did a lot to foster Tommie's success.

Steven G. Powell  
San Antonio, Texas

Witnessing the Texas/OU game, I can't help but wonder what a Nebraska season is going to be like

without playing the Sooners. I know that won't happen until 1998, but that will be a rivalry missed.

Seeing the emotion that filled the Cotton Bowl from two bitter rivals is what college football is all about. The fact that a poor Sooner team was able to pull off the victory was a testament to what a team can do in a rivalry game.

I know the Huskers' rivalry with Colorado will develop over the years and will turn into one of the greatest rivalries in college football, but the annual Sooner/Husker game will be missed.

Stanley Boedecker  
Dallas, Texas

In the story entitled "The Prototype," DeAngelo Evans was unfairly compared to Barry Sanders. Admittedly, being compared to

Barry Sanders would be an honor for any running back, but let this kid have his chance to grow and develop into his own style. It's obvious that he is good, now give him a chance to show what he can do in his own style.

Marc Frederickson  
St. Louis, Mo.

When you look at it on paper, the Big 12 isn't having that great of a season. Every team has a loss, with the South Division teams having at least two losses each.

The Big 12 Championship game isn't going to have that big-time feeling. Last year, the SEC suffered from the same ailment when Arkansas won the western division and met Florida for the title game. It looks like its going to be hard to generate hype for a game that is going to pit Nebraska (most likely) against a Texas, Texas A&M or Texas Tech team that could have at least three losses, if not more, and not be ranked. Let's hope that next season, the South Division will offer a decent challenge in the title game.

Jeff Williams  
DeSoto, Texas

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For those with electronic mail abilities, [huskiesedit@xcscx.com](mailto:huskiesedit@xcscx.com).

## Soccer Squad Racks Up 10-Record Setting Goals Against Colorado

The sixth-ranked Nebraska women's soccer team scored a school record 10 goals during a 10-2 win over Big 12 rival Colorado in front of a home record crowd of 1,387 at the Abbott Sports Complex on Oct. 13.

With the win, the Huskers improved to 13-0 overall and 5-0 in the conference.

Isabelle Morneau scored Nebraska's first goal at the 16:25 mark on an assist from Lindsay Eddleman to begin the Huskers' scoring barrage. Eddleman followed with NU's second goal on assists from Kari Uppinghouse and Erica De Vitis at the 17:47 mark.

Eddleman scored two more first-half goals, tying NU's school record for three goals in one game and three goals in one half. She also broke Nebraska's first half and single-game point records, with seven first half points.

**John Walker's team continues to be the surprise squad of college soccer.**

Uppinghouse picked up the game-winning goal in the 19th minute on assists from Morneau and De Vitis.

Sharolta Nonen and Kim Ratliff also scored goals for the Huskers against the Buffs. Jenny Benson chipped in four assists.

The Buffs managed two goals in the final 10 minutes to break NU's five-game shutout streak. The Huskers had not given up a goal for more than 550 minutes since allowing a goal late in regulation against Vanderbilt on Sept. 23. ■





## ADRIAN'S ANALYSIS

# Keeping The Jayhawks Caged

*Outside of two losses (1967, 1968) and two close calls (1973, 1993), the Huskers have owned Kansas*

**W**hen Kansas pulls into town this week, the Jayhawks will be trying to win a game against Nebraska for the first time since 1968. There have been only two close games during this 27-year stretch: a 10-9 Homecoming win in Lincoln in 1973 and a 21-20 squeaker at Lawrence, Kan., in 1993.

Actually, the Jayhawks won in 1967 and 1968, two games I will never forget.

In 1967, my sophomore year, we were coming off victories against Washington (17-7), Minnesota (7-0) and Kansas State (16-14) and were ranked eighth in the nation by the *Associated Press*. Kansas was coming off three losses, against Stanford, Indiana and Ohio University.

The Jayhawks weren't rated. They were pretty much berated for their 0-3 start.

We went to Lawrence to pick up our fourth win. But in a classic case of motion sickness (that is, going through the motions), we found ourselves behind at halftime, 7-0. We should have known that things would get worse when the offense stalled at the KU 1-yard line as time ran out in the first half.

It was not a pleasant halftime visit. Coach Bob Devaney let us have it with both Irish barrels. But as the outcome would show, the Jayhawk-induced coma would remain. We gave up a field goal in the second half, and the offense didn't get close . . . it might still be trying to score if we had stayed.

We lost 10-0 that day, in what was Coach Devaney's first shutout loss at Nebraska. Ouch.

Sunday morning, we all arrived at Memorial Stadium for practice, but no one wanted to go out and face coach. When he arrived, he looked like he'd been up all night, which he had been, watching film. When he blew the whistle to start practice, the sound seemed to rever-

berate forever.



**By  
ADRIAN  
FIALA**

Sunday practices were usually very light, more of a health check on everyone than anything else. This one was anything but light, however, and it was an indication of things to come.

We would usually meet on Sunday afternoon to watch game film for an hour, alternating offense at 3 p.m. and defense at 4 p.m. Coach announced at practice that each session would be two hours instead of one. He should have told us to wear helmets and pads, and get ready for counseling.

It was tough to relive the Jayhawk nightmare just 24 hours later. When we filed into the film room, coach



**Behind sophomore John Riggins, the Jayhawks pinned Nebraska with a frustrating 23-13 loss in 1968.**

was waiting at the door. For each of us who had a direct hand in the embarrassment, he had a direct and personal comment. He told me: "Adrian, the way you played yesterday, you should have had a ticket to get into the game." As I tried to slip into a crack in the concrete floor, where I could meet the rest of my

teammates, I said to myself: "This is never going to happen again."

We lost three more games that season, by a total of 15 points. But it wasn't because of lack of effort or "motion sickness." The effort was there. The points were not.

The next year, Kansas came to Lincoln for the Big Eight opener in a classic conference battle. We were ranked ninth by the AP and Kansas was ranked sixth. We had a 6-0 lead at halftime and led 13-9 early in the fourth quarter. Kansas scored with four minutes left to take the lead. The offense had the ball fourth-and-long on our 23-yard line. We went for it and didn't make it. Kansas scored again to win 23-13.

Each team gave a great effort, and everything was left on the field. The Sunday after was frustrating this time, rather than embarrassing. Kansas, which was led by All-Americans Bobby Douglass, John Zook and a sophomore named John Riggins, would go on to win the Big Eight championship and play in the Orange Bowl, where it lost to Penn State 15-14 in the infamous "12th-man game."

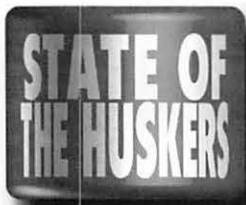
The Jayhawks apparently had the game won when they broke up a two-point conversion attempt with 15 seconds remaining in the game. The only problem was, Kansas had 12 men on the field. Penn State was given another chance from a yard and a half out, made it and won the game.

Kansas head coach Pepper Rodgers came out of his gorilla suit.

Then came 1969. Talk about a pivotal year in Nebraska football history. This year surely ranks near the top. The two previous seasons, we had 6-4 records and stayed home during the bowl season. Coach Devaney decided to change the offense to the I-formation and went with sophomores at quarterback and I-back. After four games, we were 2-2, with tough losses to fifth-ranked USC (31-21) and seventh-ranked Missouri (17-7). Everyone thought we were headed for another dismal

See FIALA page 45





# Huskies Left With Zip

*Scheduling dilemma leaves Nebraska with little choice but to accept Akron as an 1997 opponent*

**T**he question asked of Damon Benning was facetious. It was an attempt to break the silence at a recent Nebraska news conference: Are you glad you won't have to play against Akron?

"I know better than to say anything about opponents," Benning replied with a smile.

In other words, if you can't say something nice about someone, don't say anything at all.

**By  
MIKE  
BABCOCK**

Akron was added to the Cornhuskers' 1997 schedule in early October. The Zips are slated to come to Memorial Stadium to open the season on Aug. 30, and collect a \$450,000 paycheck.

After a week off, Nebraska will play its second game, against Central Florida in Lincoln.

Barring a catastrophe of unimaginable proportion, the Cornhuskers will be 2-0 when they travel to Seattle to play their final non-conference game against Washington on Sept. 20. The good thing is, both Akron and Central Florida have NCAA Division I-A programs.

The bad thing is, Nebraska will be taken to task for scheduling such opponents. The Cornhuskers will be admonished in the national media, and they will be told to pick on someone their own size.

It's bound to happen, even though Nebraska had few options. And the truth is, most successful Division I-A programs have non-conference scheduling problems similar to Nebraska's these days.

Florida's first two victories this season were against Southwest Louisiana (55-21) and Georgia Southern (62-14), an NCAA Division I-AA team. Games against I-AA opponents don't count toward the

NCAA requirement that teams invited to bowl games must have at least six victories.



Penn State, which did defeat Southern California in the Kickoff Classic, faced a regular non-conference schedule that included Louisville, Northern Illinois and Temple.

Ohio State played one toughie, Notre Dame, and two patsies, Rice and Pittsburgh.

Colorado, perennially applauded for playing tough non-conference opponents, opened with Washington State, followed by Colorado State,

Northern Illinois bought out a contract, for a paltry \$25,000, to play in Lincoln. Instead of honoring its commitment to Nebraska, Northern Illinois will play Penn State again in 1997. That left the Cornhuskers with only four home games and the one non-conference game at Washington.

It was a matter of economics that they add two non-conference home games, which will generate about \$2 million each. The unenviable task of finding opponents fell, primarily, to Steve Pederson, Nebraska's associate athletic director for football operations. He contacted between 80 and



**Nebraska has been taken to task for scheduling teams like Pacific. But when teams back out, it's hard to find quality replacements.**

then Michigan. Nebraska played Washington State last season and Colorado State this season. So where's the substantive difference in strength of schedules?

Nebraska faced a serious scheduling dilemma after it dropped a game against Arkansas State, and then

90 schools.

Some of those schools were Division I-AA, even though the preference was I-A.

"We were insistent that we'd do that (find I-A opponents) if we possibly could," Pederson said. "But we had some conversations with I-AA schools as a possible scenario." Just in case . . .

As mentioned earlier, a victory against a I-AA opponent would have been essentially invisible to the



NCAA. But it still would have produced a \$2 million payday for Nebraska.

The Cornhuskers considered the Pigskin Classic, which could have been played in Lincoln. But with the game's Aug. 23 date, practice would have had to begin in late July. And besides, the value of playing in either the Pigskin Classic, or the Kickoff Classic (which Nebraska has done three times), is as an additional source of revenue. Nebraska still would have had to find two more home games.

"The dates were limited to early September. That eliminated a lot of possibilities," said Pederson. "We looked into moving conference games to open up dates. But we couldn't do that."

Some programs declined to come to Lincoln, even with an agreement that Nebraska would reciprocate with a road game in 1998. "They just didn't want to do it at all," Pederson said.

Ohio State also was looking for a game to be played on Sept. 13. But the Buckeyes, like Nebraska, needed six home games. They only had five until Bowling Green agreed to visit Columbus on Sept. 13, after dropping a game against Central Florida. That's how Central Florida, in its first season of Division I-A competition, ended up on the Cornhuskers' schedule. That and the \$450,000 guarantee.

The most Nebraska had ever paid a non-conference opponent was \$400,000.

"At this point, I'm (just) glad to have someone on our schedule," Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne said after the Central Florida game was set. The Akron game, to open the season, soon followed.

The problem, "I think, has something to do with the growth of conferences," said Pederson. "You've got enough tough games in your conference . . . you're just not interested in going elsewhere."

With the 1997 schedule filled, Pederson can turn to 1998, when Washington comes to Lincoln. "We were holding the 1998 dates (open) in case we had a home-and-home (agreement)," he said.

Last season, as well as six of the previous 10 seasons, Nebraska played seven home games.

"With the Big 12 schedule, those days are gone," Pederson said.

Now, scheduling six home games is a chore. And it's not for lack of effort. ■

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# Fourth And Inches

*Rodgers' most important run is nearing the end with the ultimate prize in sight — a college degree*

**M**y sports and academic careers have been very rewarding, as well as very challenging. As early as an 8-year-old third-grader at Lothrop Elementary School, I had captured the attention of the press. That was the first time my picture was in the *Omaha World-Herald*. I was the smallest guy on a team of gymnasts, who entertained people at the Crossroads Mall in Omaha.

By  
**JOHNNY  
RODGERS**



One of our routines was called the "flying pyramid." We would stack the entire team in the shape of a pyramid, starting with five guys on their hands and knees, followed by four guys on top of them, then three, then two and finally one. I would take a running start and flip over the pyramid.

As I approached them, they all would squash down, and I would fly over the top, landing on my feet. People were amazed at my size and my athletic ability. It made me very popular at school.

I became so good at such athletic activities that from the third through sixth grades, I was only required to go to school for half a day. I could do my schoolwork, but I did not have time to concentrate on problem areas because of my commitment to sports. Whenever it was time to tackle a tough problem in class, it also would be time to go to the gym. I thought I had the greatest schedule any student could want.

Unfortunately, it wasn't until junior high school that I found myself behind in everything. I knew enough to fake it, but not enough to make it. I often felt inadequate. But I was a star athlete by then, so I got special consideration, which allowed me to move up in grades and compete for my school's football and basketball teams. I was quickly becoming an average student.

My former high school had great

teams in all sports. Technical High was known primarily as a trade school and athletic factor. Academics were secondary. I had teachers who gave me As for scoring touchdowns in football, hitting home runs in baseball and for long jumping in track and field.

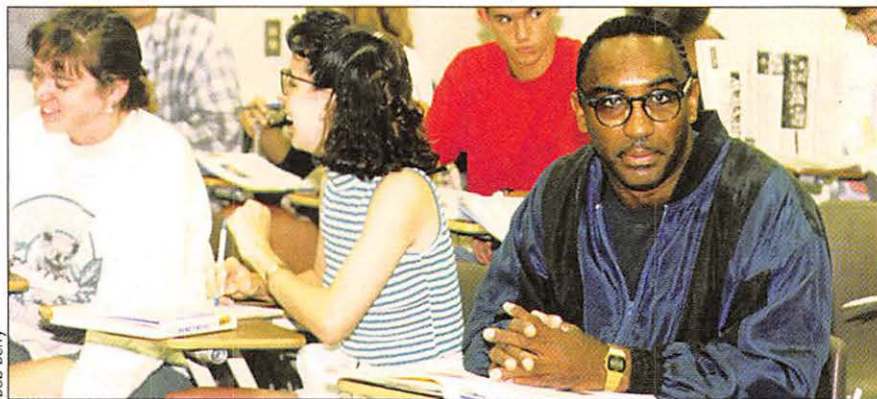
In the summer of 1968, my football coach, Dick Christie, talked to me about going to college. It was really the first time I had given higher education any thought. Coach Christie told me I had a good chance of going to a major college, but that I had to concentrate on getting my grades up in order to be able to pass college entrance exams (SAT or ACT). He also mentioned that if I could get into college, I could possibly go on to the pros and make a lot of money. Well, for the next two years I worked really hard and graduated from high school at No. 68 out of a class of 360 students.

When I got a football scholarship

for the gym, but I can't remember the name of my college advisor. For the sake of avoiding embarrassment, I used to tell people I was an English major — just for the heck of it. But the truth was, I had no educational direction or major.

In 1978, I retired from the San Diego Chargers and started the first weekly magazine devoted to cable television in the United States, called *Tuned In San Diego*. With blessings from God, it became the largest magazine in San Diego, with a circulation of 75,000 copies per week.

*Tuned In San Diego* quickly became the fourth-largest revenue-bearing magazine in the country. I didn't possess great knowledge in the publication business, but a little luck, hard work and salesmanship brought me great success. When other companies became aware of the monetary opportunities in the cable TV market, they began to jump on the bandwagon. *TV Guide* and the *San Diego Union* became my biggest competitors, with others to follow. I



**Rodgers finds many in his classes figure him to be a professor and not a former Heisman Trophy winner.**

to come to Nebraska, I had no idea what I wanted to be or what I was capable of being. I had an academic advisor, whose name I don't remember. Needless to say, we did not have a close relationship. I always tell people, jokingly, that I can remember the name of my third-grade teacher, Mrs. Jones, who always used to be furious when I left

enjoyed being a publisher. It was a learning experience.

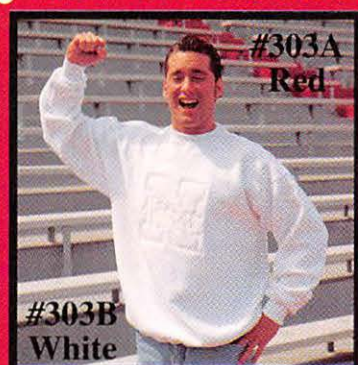
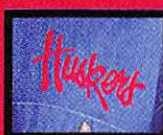
When I decided to return to college, it represented one of the biggest decisions in my life. I can honestly admit that coming back to school was more frightening than returning punts in Canada, with 12 guys against me and no blocking. I was coming to school for the first time in my life as a student, not an athlete. I wouldn't be scoring touchdowns. I'd have to settle down and

See **THE JET** page 25



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# Identity Crisis

**Rush ends or defensive ends?  
Or are they outside linebackers?  
Trying to define Nebraska's  
talent-rich position  
• by Mike Babcock**

*"That which we call a rose by any other  
name would smell as sweet."*

**A** line from William Shakespeare might be the best way to explain this. That's William Shakespeare the poet, the "Bard of Avon," not Bill Shakespeare, the Notre Dame halfback of the mid-1930s . . . even though the subject here is football not verse.

You might say Nebraska has exercised "poetic license" in identifying certain of its defensive positions over the past couple of decades, which is why when Tony Samuel goes somewhere to speak to

Cornhusker booster groups, he has to spend a few minutes explaining what it is exactly that he coaches.

The Nebraska media guide identifies Samuel, who lettered as a Cornhusker "defensive end" in the mid-1970s, as the "outside linebackers" coach, with a parenthetical sub-classification "rush ends."

Last year's media guide, didn't include the "rush ends" part, despite the fact that Samuel hasn't taken on added responsibilities. He's working with the same players. Confused yet? Well, read on.

Last season, Jared Tomich and Grant Wistrom were listed as "outside linebackers." This season, they are listed as "rush ends." More to the point, they are listed correctly as

"rush ends." They weren't really "outside linebackers," based on their responsibilities and traditional football terminology.

"If 'outside linebacker' is used to refer to 'rush end,' it's really a misnomer," said George Darlington, who coached Nebraska's "defensive ends," including Samuel, from 1973 to 1985.

The thing is, they weren't really "defensive ends" in the traditional sense. Technically speaking, the position Cornhusker All-American "defensive ends" Jimmy Williams (1981), George Andrews (1978), Bob Martin (1975) and Willie Harper (1971-72) played wasn't the same as the position Tomich and Wistrom play, although they are often regard-



**Trev Alberts (bottom) helped usher in the "rush end" position that Tony Samuel (center) coaches and Jared Tomich (93) and Grant Wistrom (98) currently shine in.**

ed as fitting in that tradition.

"The 'SAM' (line) backer is more equivalent," Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said. That means Jamel Williams would be of the Harper-to-Jimmy-Williams lineage.

It's not that simple, of course. "Jamel's playing a different position, really. He's not as big as Willie Harper, Derrie Nelson, George

Bob Berry

Andrews, those kind of guys. What Jamel does is, he has to play a lot of (pass) coverage, a lot of man-to-man. He's responsible, a lot of times, for the tight end or a guy (receiver) coming out of the backfield," said McBride. "In the old '50' defense, we were more of a zone coverage team. We dropped into zones instead of man-to-man. So it's a little different."

Samuel, more accurately an outside

linebacker than a defensive end when he played, followed Darlington as defensive ends coach in 1986. But the job isn't the same.

"If someone coached the position I coached now, he would be working with only one player," said Darlington, who coached two "defensive ends." They would be SAM linebackers now.

Samuel coaches three players, "two defensive linemen and one outside linebacker. You're teaching two distinctly different positions," he said. Craig Bohl coaches the other linebackers, who are designated as MIKE (middle) and WILL (weak-side). Bohl is called, appropriately, the "linebackers coach."

WILL also is an outside linebacker, which means Terrell Farley would fit into the tradition with Jamel Williams mentioned earlier . . . sort of. "In the 5-2, we truly had four linebackers. SAM and WILL were inside linebackers," Samuel said. "In the 4-3, you have only three linebackers."

To understand the terminology is

to gain some insight into the significant changes that have occurred during Nebraska's switch to a 4-3 base defense. When Samuel played defensive end, "we were in a two-point stance," he said. "We stood up. We were in coverage. We blitzed. One guy came. One guy dropped. We pretty much played over the tight ends. We were true, stand-up outside linebackers."

The "eagle" end lined up on a tackle. The other end lined up on the strong side of the formation, across from the tight end. The "eagle" designation switched from one defensive end to the other, "depending on the strength of the formation," said Samuel. Some teams specified an "eagle end," however, in which case, there weren't right and left defensive ends. One of them always lined up opposite the tight end.

"My senior year, we did that, and George Andrews made a ton of plays," Samuel said.

For a brief time, the terminology for the position reflected its responsibility. Two-time All-American Broderick Thomas was adamant that he be called an "outside linebacker," even though when he was recruited, Nebraska was using the designation "defensive end" for the position he played.

A "defensive end" lined up in a three-point stance. A "defensive end" was a down lineman, as far as Thomas was concerned. And he didn't consider himself a down lineman.

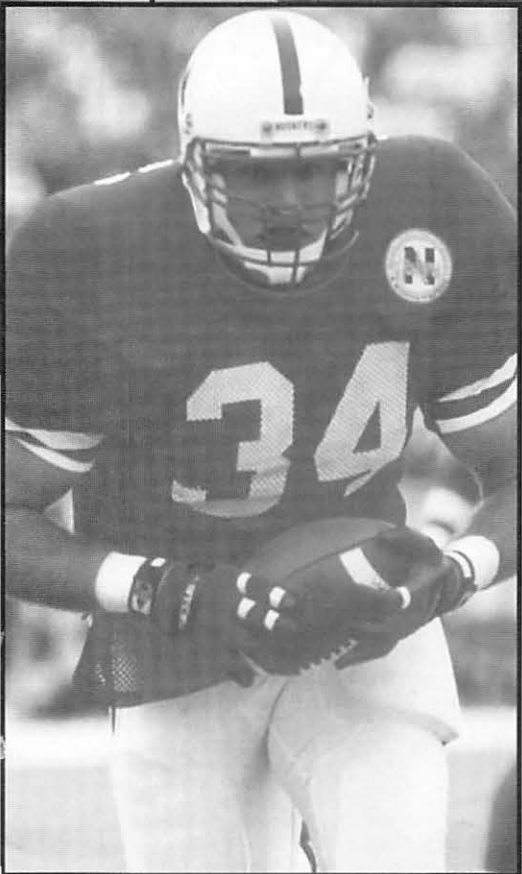
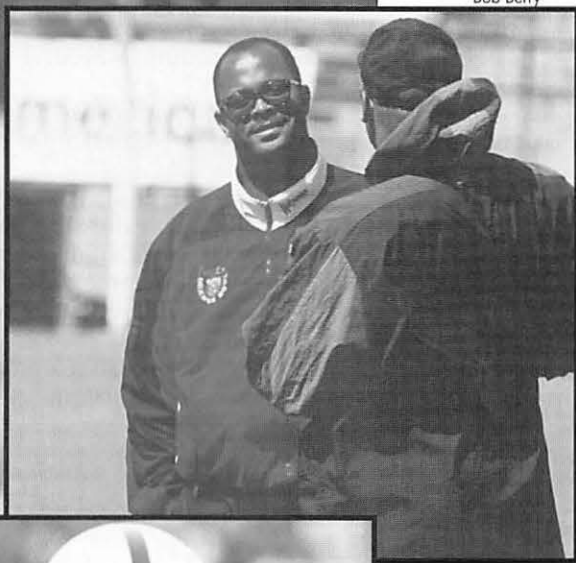
Thomas claimed the deciding factor in his choosing Nebraska over Oklahoma was that Sooners coach Barry Switzer wanted him to play defensive tackle and he was, most definitely, a linebacker.

Samuel was willing to accommodate Thomas and call him whatever he wanted to be called, though the Cornhusker media guide didn't switch from "defensive end" to "outside linebacker" until 1988, when Thomas was a senior. "Ironically, that's when we started tinkering with a 4-3," Samuel said.

"We had our 'nickel' package, in which both Broderick and Jeff Mills were what we call now the rush ends, and Mike Croel was the 'nickel back,' or what we now call the SAM backer."

In the "nickel" defense, Thomas, an outside linebacker, lined up in a three-point stance.

"Then he became a rush end," Darlington said. There are no absolutes.





As Nebraska's defensive philosophy changed, so did its recruiting emphasis. The Cornhuskers placed a premium on speed, at times sacrificing size in order to get it. Donta Jones, first-team All-Big Eight in 1994, "never weighed more than 220 pounds," said Samuel. "He was a great speed guy."

The 6-foot-2 Jones and 6-foot-2, 225-pound Dwayne Harris were listed as the starting outside linebackers on coach Tom Osborne's first national championship team. But they were really rush ends, what the 6-foot-2, 260-pound Tomich and the 6-foot-5, 250-pound Wistrom are now.

The precise labeling that was so important to Thomas lasted only a short time as Nebraska adjusted its defense to deal with the pass-oriented teams it faced annually in bowl games. The designation "outside linebacker" fit the 6-foot-3, 225-pound Croel, who was first-team All-Big Eight as a senior in 1990, as well as sophomores Travis Hill and David White and redshirted freshman Trev Alberts.

Hill, White and Alberts "really played a little of both (outside linebacker, rush end)," Samuel said. "Those guys were on the edge of it. By Trev's junior year, they were rush ends."

Alberts was a consensus All-American as a senior. He established the standard by which Cornhusker rush ends are now measured. He defined the rush end position, even though he was listed as an outside linebacker throughout his career. Osborne often has said that during the 1993 season, Alberts probably had more impact on more games than any other defensive player he has ever coached.

Late in the 1993 season, Troy Dumas was moved from free safety to strongside linebacker, where he earned first-team all-conference recognition as a senior in 1994. Technically, Dumas had more in common with the earlier defensive end-outside linebacker types than Alberts did.

Some of the confusion is a result of the physical similarities between the 6-foot-4, 240-pound Alberts and the earlier outside linebacker/defensive ends like Jimmy Williams,

Andrews and Harper. Williams was 6-foot-3 and 215 pounds. Andrews was 6-foot-4 and 225 pounds. Harper was 6-foot-2 and only 207 pounds, but that was at a time when an interior offensive lineman might weigh 240 pounds.

"Andrews, Williams, Ray Phillips . . . they all would have been good rush ends," Samuel said.

"A lot of them had the same physical characteristics of the rush ends now. That's kind of what we've stayed with. We haven't gone with the big 4-3 type rush ends that a lot of teams have," said McBride. "We've stayed more with speed guys so we could get that quick pressure from the outside."

Any one-to-one comparison based on position names has limitations, anyway, according to McBride, because the philosophy of the 5-2 defense as Nebraska played it was significantly different from the current 4-3 approach. The Cornhuskers used zone coverage then, rather than man-to-man.

The defensive ends, or outside linebackers, would drop off the line of scrimmage in zone coverage. "A lot of times, 4-3 (base) teams that run zone blitzes — and I use 'teams'

because we do — sometimes drop their rush ends. But that's about the only time they really drop in coverage," McBride said.

In simple terms, ignoring the complexities of both defensive schemes, it comes down to this. In the 5-2, there are four linebackers and three defensive linemen: two tackles and a middle guard. In the 4-3, there are three linebackers and four down linemen: two tackles and two rush ends.

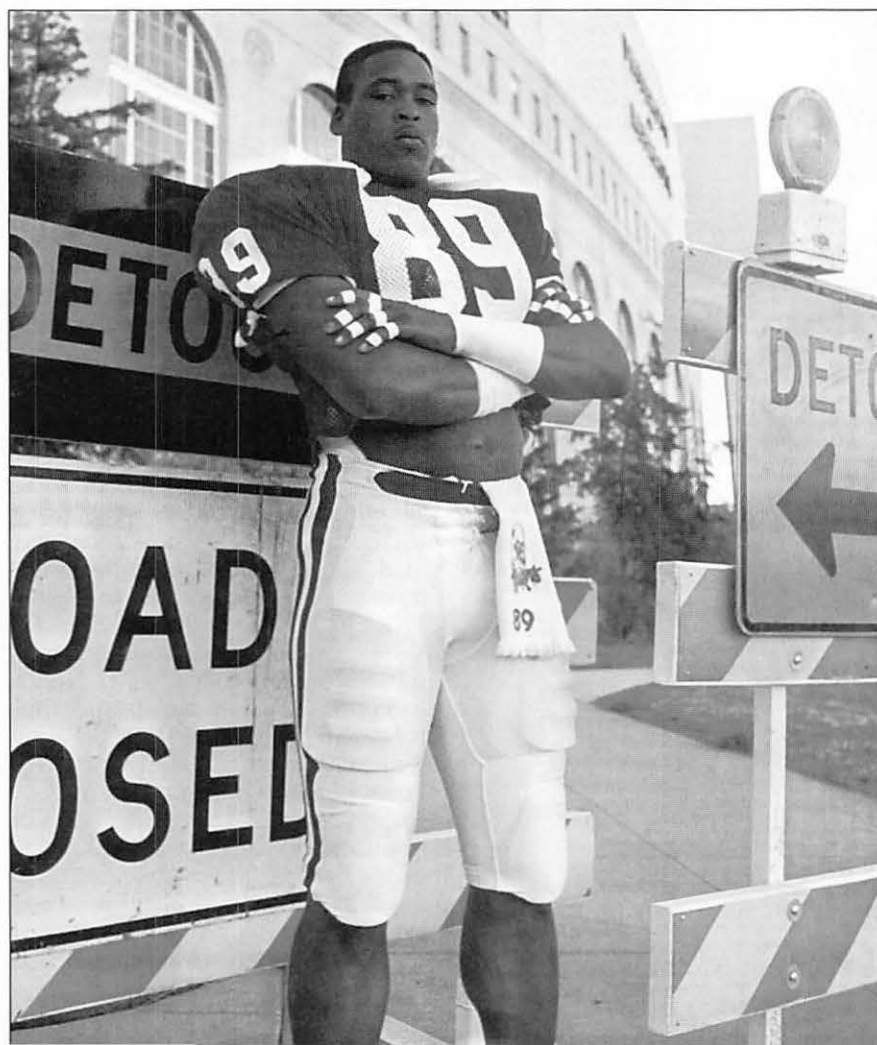
"You almost need to diagram it to see it," Samuel said. "That makes it fun."

Actually, what makes it fun for him as a coach is having Tomich, Wistrom, Chad Kelsay and Mike Rucker to alternate at the rush ends. They're outstanding, wherever they fit in tradition.

Tomich and Wistrom are as good a combination as Nebraska has ever had.

"Sometimes, I don't like to see Jared and Grant on the sideline at the same time," said Samuel, who is in the pressbox on game day. "The young guys do fine. But that's my comfort zone."

And that's the case no matter what they're called. ■



**Changing Broderick Thomas' position name to "outside linebacker" from "defensive tackle" enabled Nebraska to sign him away from Oklahoma.**



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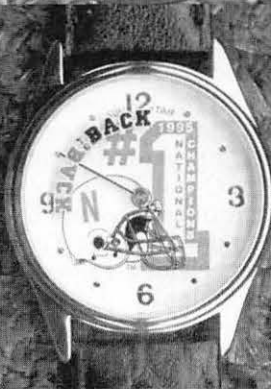
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# SCOUTING



**By Mark Derowitsch**

**N**ebraska's defense has caught Heisman fever. Really, the Black Shirts just want to burn the Heisman chances of a running back for the second straight week.

Next up is Kansas tailback June Henley.

Henley, a senior from Columbus, Ohio, certainly has the credentials to be mentioned among the early-season Heisman favorites. In the Jayhawks' first five games this season, Henley rushed for 710 yards, scored 11 touchdowns and averaged 142 yards per contest.

What's even more remarkable is that Kansas coach Glen Mason believes Henley can do much better.

"June is running just as hard as he ever has," Mason said. "He is just

not having the opportunity to pick up the yards."

Henley will have to play better than he did a year ago against the Huskers in order to remain in contention for the Heisman Trophy after Oct. 26, when Kansas will travel to Lincoln, Neb., to take on Nebraska. Last season, Henley gained just 14 yards on seven carries in a 41-3 loss to the Huskers.

He'll get a chance to redeem himself on. Kickoff for the game at Memorial Stadium has been changed to 6:00 p.m. CDT so Fox Sports/Liberty Productions can televise the tilt on regional Prime Sports outlets.

Henley has cooled off a bit since opening the season like he was the only candidate for the Heisman. He began the year by rushing for 187 yards and three touchdowns against Ball State, 201 yards and four scores against TCU and 216 yards and two more touchdowns against Utah. But against Oklahoma and Texas Tech combined, Henley gained just 106 yards, although he did score twice against the Sooners.

Henley isn't the only weapon in Kansas' arsenal.

Quarterback Matt Johner has completed 53.6 percent of his passes, and threw for 929 yards and nine touchdowns in the Jayhawks' first five games.

But Johner didn't look sharp in a 30-17 loss to Texas Tech. Although he threw for 258 yards, he completed

**June Henley is the Big 12's third-leading rusher behind Texas Tech's Byron Hanspard and Iowa State's Troy Davis.**



Harry Lentz Jr.

## PRESS PICKS

### • Mike Babcock, Huskers Illustrated

Nebraska's home winning streak, and dominance of Kansas, will continue. The Jayhawks have a solid offensive philosophy in attempting to establish the run, and June Henley is an outstanding tailback in such a system. But they also seem to have a fatal flaw, which prevents them from being as good as they probably should be. Kansas will be a focus of frustration for all the people who were forced to change their Saturday plans after kickoff was changed to accommodate television.

**Nebraska 52, Kansas 10.**

### • Todd Henrichs, Grand Island (Neb.) Independent

If Kansas couldn't stop Utah, what is Nebraska going to roll up offensively against the Jayhawks?

**Nebraska 48, Kansas 14.**

### • Kyle Svec, Hastings Tribune

Nebraska should have all the greats moving the right direction. The Kansas non-conference schedule wasn't good preparation for the Big 12. Scott Frost seems to be getting better with each game, and the Cornhusker defense has been a wall.

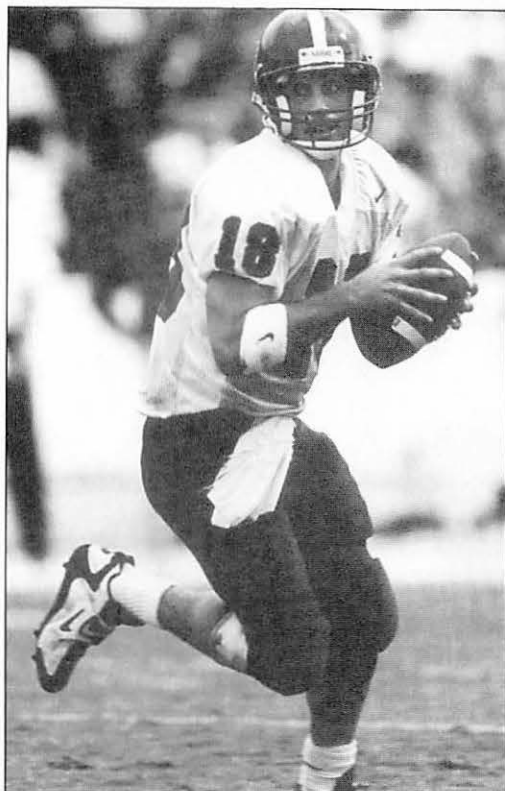
**Nebraska 49, Kansas 17.**

### • Scott Franzke, Prime Radio Sports

The Huskers machine rolls along. Nebraska is still, without a doubt, two steps ahead of the competition in the Big 12.

**Nebraska 37, Kansas 16.**





Harry Lentz Jr.

**Kansas quarterback Matt Johner has proved to be an effective leader for the Jayhawks.**

just 18-of-44 passes and had two picked off.

"He didn't play well enough for us to win consistently at this level," Mason said of Johner. "He is capable of playing better. I guess if everybody else would have played better, he would have played well enough for us to win."

Former Nebraska player Ben Rutz is Johner's backup. Rutz, a senior,

has thrown for 90 yards in limited action in his second year with the Jayhawks.

Johner's favorite receiver is Isaac Byrd, who caught 21 passes for 289 yards through five contests. Byrd and Andre Carter (nine catches, 103 yards and one touchdown) start at the receiver spots for Kansas.

Mason said Byrd has emerged as an exceptional offensive force this season.

"I think that Isaac Byrd has established himself as a top-notch receiver," Mason said. "We try to get him the ball as much as we can."

Kansas is averaging 415 yards of offense this season despite the sub-par play of the linemen, Mason said. Kansas starts three seniors on the line in center Jared Smith, left guard Jim Stiebel and left tackle Scott Whittaker. Sophomores Cleve Roberts and Justin Glasgow, the heaviest members of the line at

300 pounds each, start at right guard and tackle, respectively.

"Traditionally, we have played better," Mason said. "We should be performing better on the offensive line."

Defensively, the Jayhawks' secondary has struggled this fall, giving up 244.8 passing yards every Saturday. As a team, Kansas has made seven interceptions.

Cornerback Jason Harris leads the team with three pickoffs. But the only other starter to have made an interception is right cornerback Tony Blevins. The rest of the starters in the

secondary, free safety Michael Allen and strong safety Maurice Gaddie still are looking for their first one of the year.

Kansas' front five has proven to be tough against the run. Opposing teams are gaining just 163.8 yards per game against the Jayhawks, an even more impressive number when it's considered that Texas Tech gained 255 yards when it played Kansas. Tackles Dewey Houston III, Brett McGraw and Kevin Kopp anchor the line, but they receive support from outside linebackers Patrick Brown and Chris Jones and inside linebackers Jason Thoren and Ronnie Ward.

Mason said the recent play of his defense has been pleasing.

"I think our defense is improved," he said. "They came really close a couple of plays there from really playing well (against Texas Tech). I think that we made a marked improvement defensively."

Special teams haven't been all that special for the Jayhawks. Kicker Jeff McCord has hit just three of his six field goal attempts, and his longest is only 34 yards. He has been perfect on all 27 extra-point attempts. Punter Dean Royal is averaging 39.3 yards per boot.

Kick returner Eric Vann is averaging 26.3 yards per attempt. He also broke a return 100 yards for a touchdown against Oklahoma.

Kansas hasn't beaten Nebraska since 1968, when the Jayhawks took a 23-13 victory in Lincoln. Nebraska is 78-21-3 lifetime against KU, including 23-0 during the tenure of Husker coach Tom Osborne. ■

## NEBRASKA vs. KANSAS TWO-DEEPS

### HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	190	Sr
	6	Kenny Cheatham	6-4	210	So
LT	77	Adam Treu	6-6	300	Sr
	73	Fred Pollack	6-4	305	Jr
LG	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	310	Sr
	63	James Sherman	6-2	300	Fr
C	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	Jr
	59	Josh Heskew	6-3	280	Jr
RG	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	290	Jr
	62	Matt Hoskinson	6-1	280	Jr
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	300	Jr
	78	Kory Mikos	6-5	295	Sr
TE	90	Tim Carpenter	6-3	250	Jr
	88	Sheldon Jackson	6-4	250	So
QB	7	Scott Frost	6-3	215	Jr
	11	Matt Turman	5-11	185	Sr
FB	*28	Brian Schuster	5-11	225	Sr
	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11	230	So
IB	*30	Ahman Green	6-0	210	So
	21	Damon Benning	5-11	210	Sr
WB	25	Jon Vedral	5-11	205	Sr
	14	Lance Brown	5-11	190	So
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10	200	So

### JAYHAWK DEFENSE

DT	83	Dewey Houston III	6-4	270	Jr
	90	Dan Dercher	6-6	230	So
NT	70	Brett McGraw	6-1	280	Jr
	59	John Williams	6-4	275	Fr
DT	57	Kevin Kopp	6-4	270	So
	93	Adrian Greene	6-3	285	So
OLB	47	Patrick Brown	5-10	210	So
	45	J.J. Johnson	6-2	230	So
LB	38	Jason Thoren	6-2	240	Sr
	54	Steve Bratten	6-1	228	So
LB	46	Ronnie Ward	6-0	225	Sr
	52	Tyrus Fontenot	5-8	220	Fr
OLB	49	Chris Jones	6-2	245	Sr
	95	Jeremy Martin	6-0	245	Fr
CB	23	Jason Harris	5-10	170	Jr
	29	Manolo Jones	5-9	170	Jr
FS	28	Tony Blevins	6-0	170	Jr
	6	Bilal Cook	5-10	170	Fr
SS	24	Maurice Gaddie	5-9	190	Jr
	27	Michael Allen	5-10	190	So
CB	37	Janie Harris	5-10	175	So
	10	Mitch Bowles	5-8	170	Fr
P	41	Dean Royal	6-2	180	Jr

### JAYHAWK OFFENSE

WR	1	Isaac Byrd	6-2	180	Sr
	86	Michael Chandler	5-11	185	Fr
LT	79	Scott Whittaker	6-6	285	Sr
	50	Michel Lies	6-3	265	So
LG	55	Jim Stiebel	6-2	275	Sr
	73	Dameon Hunt	6-2	280	Fr
C	65	Jared Smith	6-1	270	Sr
	68	Chris Enneking	6-3	260	Fr
RG	77	Cleve Roberts	6-6	300	So
	72	Shawn Vang	6-2	275	So
RT	76	Justin Glasgow	6-6	300	So
	71	Derrick Chandler	6-7	310	Jr
TE	89	Jim Moore	6-3	250	Sr
	13	Hosea Friday	6-2	245	Sr
QB	18	Matt Johner	6-1	195	Jr
	8	Ben Rutz	6-0	190	Sr
RB	30	Eric Galbreath	6-1	205	Jr
	32	Greg Davis	6-0	220	Fr
RB	20	June Henley	5-11	215	Sr
	25	Eric Vann	5-9	205	Jr
WR	80	Andre Carter	5-10	165	Sr
	4	John Gordon	5-11	180	Fr
PK	36	Jeff McCord	5-9	220	Jr

### HUSKER DEFENSE

LRE	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	260	Sr
	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3	230	So
DT	97	Jeff Ogard	6-6	300	Sr
	99	Jason Wiltz	6-3	295	So
DT	*55	Jason Peter	6-4	285	Jr
	74	Scott Saltzman	6-2	270	Sr
RRE	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	250	Jr
	84	Mike Rucker	6-6	250	So
SLB	28	Jamel Williams	6-2	205	Sr
	46	Brian Shaw	6-0	215	Fr
MLB	44	Jon Hesse	6-4	250	Sr
	56	Jay Foreman	6-1	225	So
WLB	43	Terrell Farley	6-1	205	Sr
	91	Ryan Ferwilliger	6-5	225	Sr
LC	20	Michael Booker	6-2	205	Sr
	12	Mike Fullman	5-7	170	Sr
FS	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	185	Sr
	3	Eric Warfield	6-1	195	Jr
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10	190	Sr
	4	Octavious McFarlin	5-11	195	Jr
RC	22	Ralph Brown	5-11	180	Fr
	26	Jerome Peterson	5-7	185	Fr
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	185	Jr

Depth charts were compiled Oct. 20, 1996 and may change before game time. # = duplicate number \* = injured, but probable for game



# Misfires Nearly Cost Huskers In 24-10 Victory

It began like this. It was going to be easy.

The Nebraska football team's arrival on the sideline produced a shower of tortillas, tossed from the northeast stands at Jones Stadium.

Parachutists dropped into the stadium, with a precision that belied a strong south wind. They settled on the artificial turf with seeming ease.

One, two, three, four . . .

Tom Osborne appeared to be a little perturbed by the delay, which was approximately 10 minutes.

There was a prayer, followed by the playing of the National Anthem.

By **MIKE BABCOCK**

Then, on the first play from scrimmage, Texas Tech's Byron Hanspard took a handoff and fumbled. Terrell Farley caught the ball and returned it 21 yards for a touchdown.

Seven seconds had elapsed. The score was 7-0.

Never, in 100-plus seasons, had the Cornhuskers scored so quickly. Sometimes when the first points come so easily, a team can lose focus. "I've seen that," Osborne said. It's like air going out of a balloon.

"But I don't think that happened today," he said after a 24-10 victory against Texas Tech.

Appearances to the contrary, Nebraska didn't let up. What it did do, however, was show a disturbing tendency toward self-destruction. "We kept shooting ourselves in the foot," said senior I-back Damon Benning.

The Cornhuskers fumbled seven times, losing four. They were penalized 11 times for 99 yards. And quarterback Scott Frost threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown.

The game resembled the one at Arizona State in some ways. "We need games like this, on the road," Benning said. "It builds character."

There are other ways to build character, of course. "I'm not sure we can do this down the road," senior defensive tackle Jeff Ogard said. "We got away with one, I think."

"It was really frustrating."

The frustration continued until Benning returned a punt 51 yards then scored on a 3-yard run with 8:16 remaining in the game.

Appropriately enough, Benning fumbled a Frost pitch and had to scoop up the ball on the play that produced the clinching touchdown.

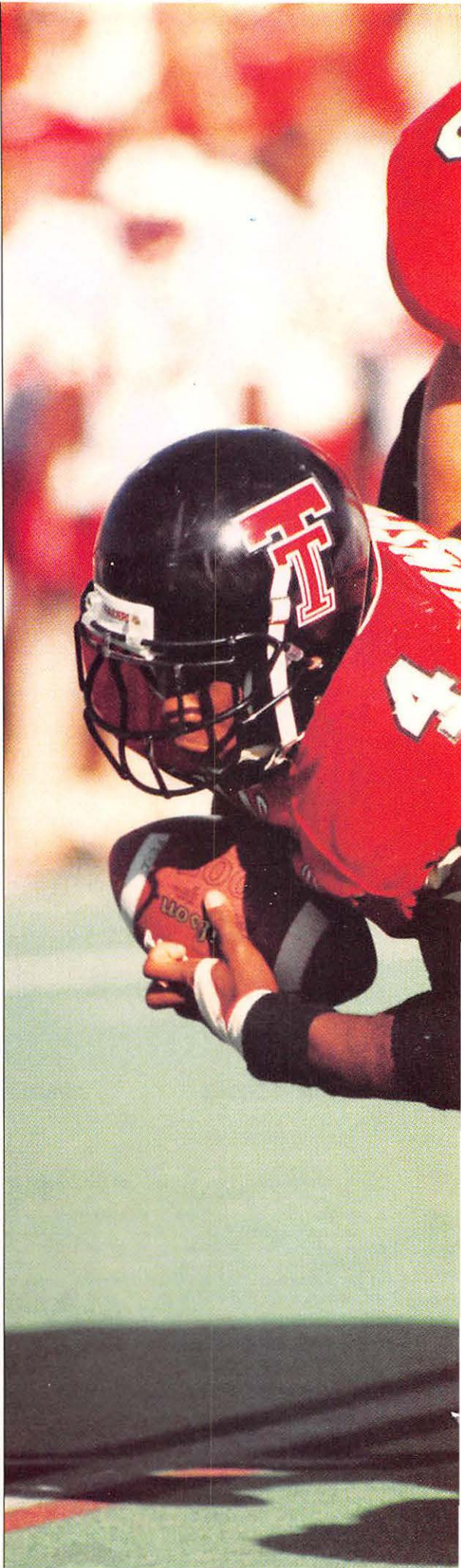
"I looked up because I saw green (an opening) and took my eyes off the ball for a second," Benning said. "But I didn't panic."

Once again, Nebraska proved the value of kicking and defense. "Like Coach said afterward, the kicking game was probably one of the bright spots for us," said Jesse Kosch.

He averaged 48 yards on five punts in the battle for field position.

Middle linebacker Jon Hesse blocked a punt, to give Nebraska the ball at the Tech 40-yard line, field position the Cornhuskers proceeded to

**Nebraska succeeded in trying to put some distance between Byron Hanspard and the Heisman Trophy.**



Texas Tech game photos by Corby D. Roberts









negate with penalties for a personal foul and for holding. That's how it went most of the afternoon.

"It was an ugly win all right," said rush end Grant Wistrom. "But I'll take it just the same."

Wistrom was his usual brilliant self, most of the game. He was credited with seven tackles, including four for losses of 13 yards and two quarterback sacks. But Wistrom was not more immune to mistakes than anyone else.

"A lot of them were mine," he said of Nebraska's 11 penalties.

The defense drew six penalties, for 51 yards. Two were for roughing the passer. The others were for being offsides. The Red Raiders "just go on the sound," Osborne said. "When they don't, you tend to jump off."

That was no excuse, however. "We worked on it all week," he said.

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride wasn't overly concerned about the penalties, particularly those for roughing the passer. They weren't "vicious," he said.

And beyond that, "I'm not taking the aggressiveness away from these guys. I want them aggressive, coming off the ball," said McBride.

The Black Shirts certainly did that, to limit Byron Hanspard, Tech's Heisman Trophy candidate tailback to a season-low 107 yards. **Behind Ahman Green's 76 yards, the NU offense could only muster 183 yards on the ground.**

20 OCTOBER 26, 1996

rushing yards. He was averaging 217.7 yards per game.

Hanspard had two fumbles, which led to 14 Nebraska points. In addition to the one Farley returned for a touchdown, Hanspard lost a fumble to cornerback Ralph Brown at the Tech 41-yard line. Seven plays

**Texas Tech never recovered after fumbling on its opening possession. Terrell Farley recovered the ball and returned it 21 yards to give NU the lead seven seconds into the game.**

later, Frost ran 3 yards on a option, barrel rolling fullback Brian Schuster for the score, early in the third quarter.

"I was very disappointed about the fumble because I felt like it cost us the game," Hanspard said. (It wasn't clear which one.) "I will try to get my head back on and get to that level of a great back. Right now, I am not at that level."

Most Cornhusker defenders disagreed. "He's a great running back," Wistrom said. "He deserves all the credit he gets."

Red Raider quarterback Zebbie Lethridge passed for 112 yards. But he completed only 11-of-30 passes and was sacked six times. Sophomore rush end Mike Rucker, Wistrom's backup, was credited with three of the sacks for 16 yards in losses. He had a fourth tackle for loss and five tackles overall.

Hesse was Nebraska's leading tackler with nine, including four for





losses totaling 10 yards. The senior from Lincoln (Southeast) was the Cornhuskers' outstanding defender, "no question," McBride said.

Hesse downplayed his contribution. "The coaches called some great defenses to put me in position (to make the plays)," he said.

When the guard on whom he was keying pulled, he followed. "Talk to the coaches," said Hesse. "I'm not going to toot my own horn."

Texas Tech's defense was nearly as stingy as Nebraska's, allowing the Cornhuskers only 238 total yards, including 183 yards rushing.

Ahman Green, who started at I-back after missing last week's victory against Baylor because of a turf toe injury, led Nebraska rushers with 76 yards on 19 carries. "As a group of backs, we didn't play like we can play," said Benning. "I know Coach Solich wasn't too happy."

Neither was Osborne. "I was really disappointed our (offensive) execution," he said. "I'd feel better about it if we had executed."

The game's physical play took a toll on both teams. Nebraska defensive tackle Jason Peter suffered a broken right hand and didn't play

during the second half. And Schuster, the No. 1 fullback, suffered what might be a partially separated shoulder.

After the game, Benning and sophomore weakside linebacker Eric Johnson ran up the tunnel to the Cornhusker locker room. "We tried our best to give it away," Benning said.

With 1:43 remaining and the score at 24-10, Nebraska fullback Joel Makovicka lost a fumble at the NU 30-yard line. Most of the Cornhuskers' first-team defense ran back on the field. "They score, get an onside kick, and they're back in the game," senior rover Mike Minter said.

Even as time elapsed, and a final tortilla or two floated from the stands, there was a hint of concern.

"Any time you fumble four or five times, you should be happy to win," said Kosch.

Four or five? Try seven.

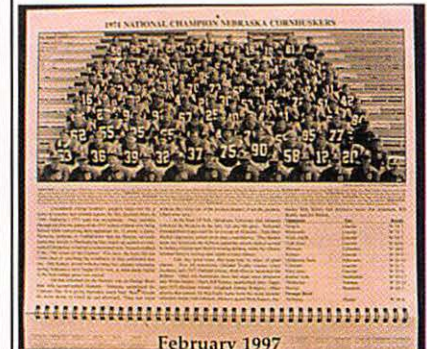
"It wasn't pretty," he said.

After the Red Raiders called their last timeout with 1:16 on the clock, Frost took a knee twice.

It ended like that. It hadn't been easy. ■



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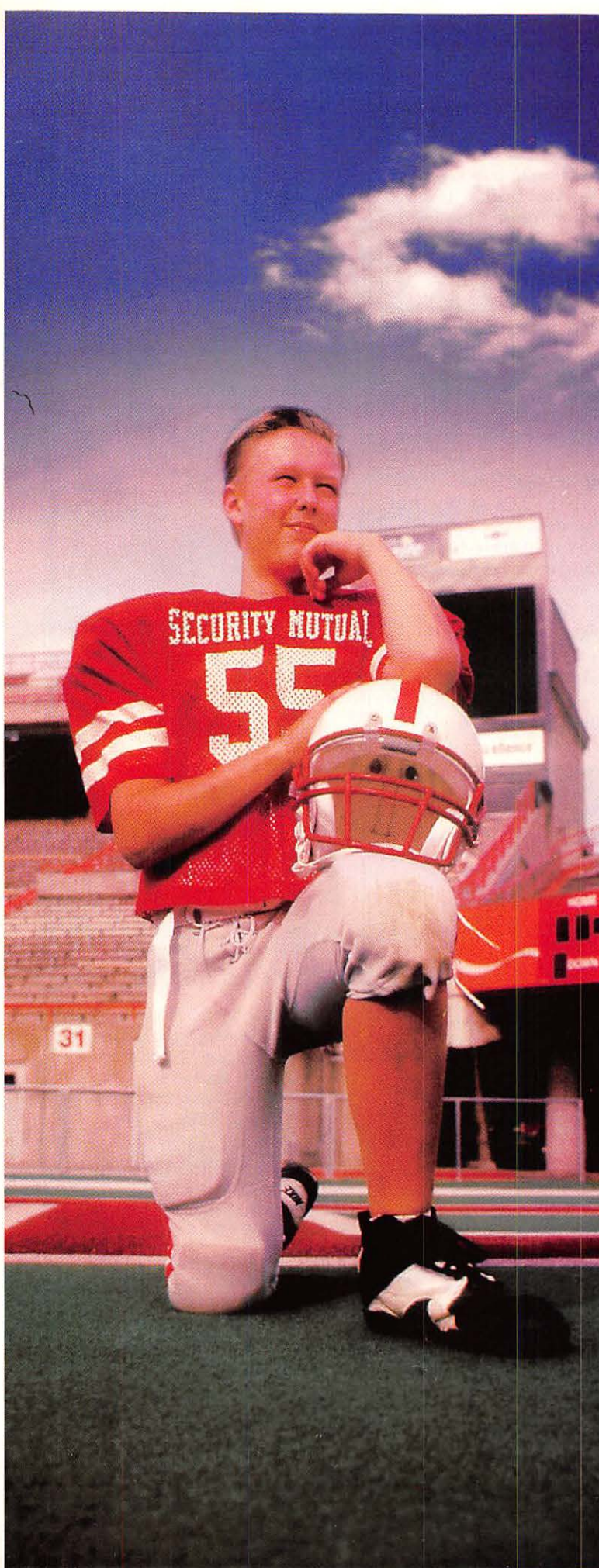
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# Adding Fuel To The Fire

*Zebbie Lethridge's comments about NU's "soft secondary" could cause fireworks if there is a rematch in December*

By MIKE BABCOCK

**Z**ebbie Lethridge complimented the Nebraska defense. Most of it, anyway. The Cornhusker Black Shirts were "extremely quick and physical," Texas Tech's junior quarterback said after they limited his team to 214 yards.

Lethridge finished with a rushing net of minus-5 yards. He was sacked six times, for 30 yards in losses, prompting coach Spike Dykes to remark: "Nebraska had a lot of fire power, especially rushing the passer."



Corby D. Roberts

**Lethridge may have found the NU secondary "soft," but he had trouble dealing with the rest of the Black Shirts.**

No great insight there, right? But it's nice that Dykes would say so.

"As soon as a hole would open, it would close," Lethridge said.

Nebraska's defense was most vulnerable, the "softest," according to Lethridge, in the secondary.

You have to appreciate his honesty and respect his opinion. Under the circumstances, however, you might wonder whether that last part would have been better left unsaid.

That's because Lethridge and Nebraska's secondary might meet again this season, on Dec. 7 in St. Louis, in the first Big 12 championship game.

Lethridge even mentioned the potential rematch. "Hopefully, we are going to rebound and get a chance to play them again," he said.

Texas Tech could represent the Big 12's South Division in the conference playoff. The Red Raiders travel to Texas A&M then have an off-week to prepare for a visit from 3-3 Texas before finishing their conference schedule at Oklahoma on Nov. 23.

They could win their remaining games. They're "capable of being a Top 10 team," coach Tom Osborne said after Nebraska's 24-10 victory. "This was a much better team than we've played."

Nebraska took the Red Raiders' "best shot," said Osborne.

The Cornhuskers won't play

recovering to remain unbeaten and untied.

Arizona State, in particular, has shown remarkable persistence in rallying for Pac-10 victories against UCLA and USC (in overtime).

Obviously, if Arizona State and Ohio State win out, if they both run the table, then Nebraska's chances of playing for a third straight national title almost certainly would be gone. They would be matched in the Rose Bowl, and the best the Cornhuskers could do would be to defeat a No. 1-ranked Florida in the Sugar Bowl.

That's assuming Florida can get past Florida State and remain No. 1.

Nebraska can't control any of that. All it can do is play as well as possible, which is something it didn't do against Tech. For every good thing the Cornhuskers did, you can identify something not so good.

Their propensity toward penalties was particularly distressing. Colorado-like, if you prefer.

"We're trying to get to the top, somehow," said Osborne. "I'm not concerned about rankings, but I am concerned about how we play."

Nebraska's performance at Lubbock, Texas, left something to be desired. (That something was execution.) But the Cornhuskers survived their self-destructive tendencies and now are poised for the stretch run.

"Their defense was exactly what I expected, very fast and very physical," said Texas Tech's Byron Hanspard, who rushed for less than half his season's average against it.

Hanspard didn't qualify his praise the way Lethridge did.

That doesn't mean it would be any easier to run against Nebraska if the teams met again in St. Louis. But at least Hanspard hasn't provided the Black Shirts with any more incentive.

Lethridge, on the other hand, has. You can be sure his comment about a "soft" secondary has been duly noted by those who play in it.

They have, no doubt, made a mental note, just in case Texas Tech makes it to St. Louis. ■

another opponent of that caliber until Colorado comes to Lincoln on Nov. 29, for the game that likely will determine the North Division champion.

The Texas Tech game represented a significant challenge, in a hostile environment. "We took an awful big step forward," Osborne said.

Although they have yet to demonstrate the fundamental consistency characteristic of most Osborne-coached teams, these Cornhuskers have shown a resiliency that should serve them well during the next month and a half.

"If we keep winning, we still have a chance to play for the national championship," said junior rush end Grant Wistrom.

Such a chance would depend, in part, on what Ohio State and Arizona State do the remainder of the season. Both have faltered briefly each of the last two weeks before



# THE JET

From page 10

do it on my own.

I decided on pursuing a degree in journalism. Recently, I decided to double major, with the second being advertising. This is my third year back in school, and I've been able to earn a 3.2 grade-point average in my major since I've returned. My 2.4 (cumulative grade-point) average 20 years ago has now become a 3.0. I plan to graduate this academic year with my B.A. degrees and continue in a master's degree program. People ask me what I'm going to be when I graduate. I tell them "50-years-old."

The athletic department as well as the broadcasting and advertising departments have given me tremendous support. The Consortium program with Al Papik has provided me with tutorial help in every subject, as well as related support in other academic areas. The hardest part of school these days is that I find myself taking classes with the children of friends I went to school with 20 years ago.

Kids in my classes are more likely to mistake me for an instructor than for a former Heisman Trophy winner. Some who do know and speak to me, ask for autographs for their parents.

I hope I can be a positive influence on young people as well as the older people who want to return to college. More and more non-traditional students (those over 25-years-old) are now giving education a second chance. I want to be an example. If I can do it, so can they. I give speeches regularly, lecturing kids on the importance of school and maintaining a winning attitude, not to quit. My kids were preached this same lesson. Thankfully, they learned it. My son, Terry, graduated from Nebraska with a marketing degree. My daughter Latonia earned a bachelor's degree in math and a masters degree in statistics.

Lots of things change in life, but the need for an education is consistent. Education is not part of your life. Education is life itself. Make sure you get yours and your children get theirs.

A mind truly is a terrible thing to waste. Be daring. It's different. The longest run I've ever made was the run down Interstate 80 over two years ago to return to school. Now I'm about to score. ■

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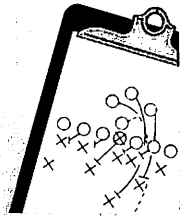
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# STATISTICS VS. TEXAS TECH

## OCTOBER 19, 1996

Jones Stadium • Lubbock, Texas  
Attendance: 51,344



### SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
NEBRASKA	7	3	7	7	24
TEXAS TECH	7	3	0	0	10

### TEAM STATS

	NU	TT
First Downs	13	17
Rushing	10	8
Passing	2	5
Penalty	1	4
Rushing Attempts	49	46
Yards Gained Rushing	210	152
Yards Lost Rushing	27	50
Net yards rushing	183	102
Net yards passing	55	112
Passes attempted	12	30
Passes completed	4	11
Had intercepted	1	0
Total plays	61	76
Total net yards	238	214
Avg. gain per play	3.9	2.8
Fumbles-lost	7-4	5-3
Penalties-yards	11-99	4-33
Punts-yards	5-240	8-248
Avg. per punt	48.0	31.0
Possession time	26:28	33:32

### DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Player					
Hesse	5	4	9	0	0
Williams	6	1	7	0	0
Wistrom	5	2	7	2	0
Ogard	6	0	6	0	0
Farley	5	1	6	0	0
Minter	1	5	6	0	0
Rucker	5	0	5	3	0
Tomich	4	1	5	1	0
Fullman	3	1	4	0	0
Foreman	2	2	4	0	0
Booker	3	0	3	0	0
Terwilliger	2	0	2	0	0
Shaw	2	0	2	0	0
Kelsay	2	0	2	0	0
Wiltz	0	2	2	0	0

### TEXAS TECH

Player	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Brown	9	1	10	0	0
Reagor	8	1	9	0	0
Butler	4	1	5	0	0
Chandler	2	1	3	1	0
Johnson	1	0	1	0	1

### INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

#### RUSHING

NEBRASKA	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Green	19	76	4.0	19	0
Benning	4	32	8.0	21	1
Evans	6	24	4.0	14	0
Frost	14	22	1.6	6	1
Schuster	4	17	4.3	7	0
Makovicka	2	12	6.0	11	0

TEXAS TECH	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Hanspard	31	107	3.5	11	0
Morris	2	0	0.0	2	0
Lethridge	13	-5	-0.4	17	0

#### PASSING

NEBRASKA	Att	Yds	TD
Player			
Frost	4-12-1	55	0

TEXAS TECH	Att	Yds	TD
Player			
Lethridge	11-30-0	112	0

#### FIELD GOALS

NEBRASKA	Att	Made	Distance
Player			
Brown, K.	2	1	39

TEXAS TECH	Att	Made	Distance
Player			
Greaser	2	1	29

#### RECEIVING

NEBRASKA	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Player					
Vedral	2	35	17.5	29	0
Green	1	19	19.0	19	0
Evans	1	1	1.0	1	0

TEXAS TECH	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Player					
Hart	4	39	9.8	14	0
McKenzie	2	18	9.0	12	0
Morris	1	20	20.0	20	0
Allamon	1	15	15.0	15	0
DuBuc	1	10	10.0	10	0
Jasin	1	7	7.0	7	0
Hanspard	1	3	3.0	3	0

#### PUNT RETURNS

NEBRASKA	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
Benning	2	58	29.0	51	1
Hesse	1	18	18.0	18	0

TEXAS TECH	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
Robertson	4	25	7.3	13	0

#### KICKOFF RETURNS

NEBRASKA	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
Evans	1	11	11.0	11	0

BAYLOR	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
Mitchell	1	8	8.0	8	0

## 1996 SEASON STATS

(6 GAMES)

### RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Green, A.	5	90	463	92.6	3
Evans, D.	5	46	371	74.2	5
Benning, D.	5	53	313	62.6	5
Frost, S.	6	67	254	42.3	4
Sims, J.	4	21	113	28.3	1
Shuster, B.	6	24	113	18.8	1
Turman, M.	5	11	76	15.2	1
Makovicka, J.	4	9	47	11.8	0
Cobb, J.	3	8	36	13.0	0
Perino, J.	2	1	28	14.0	0
Eicher, C.	1	1	13	13.0	0
Legate, B.	2	3	8	4.0	0
Kingston, B.	3	5	5	2.5	0
Cheatham, K.	3	1	-16	-5.3	0

### PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frost, S.	6	45-93-2	48.4	595	4
Turman, M.	5	6-13-0	46.2	91	1
Perino, J.	2	0-1-0	0.0	0	0

### RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Holbein, B.	6	10	151	15.1	25.2	1
Vedral, J.	6	9	181	20.1	30.2	0
Green, A.	5	7	75	10.7	15.0	0
Shuster, B.	6	3	74	24.6	12.3	0
Cheatham, K.	3	3	49	16.3	16.3	1
Jackson, S.	5	3	40	13.3	8.0	1
Jackson, V.	5	3	34	11.3	6.8	2
Evans, D.	5	3	12	4.0	2.4	0
Brown, L.	2	2	44	22.0	22.0	0
Lake, J.	2	1	12	12.0	12.0	0
Edwards, J.R.	3	1	10	10.0	5.0	0
Legate, B.	2	1	9	9.0	4.5	0
Wietling, S.	1	1	6	6.0	6.0	0
Makovicka, J.	4	1	3	3.0	0.8	0
Benning, D.	5	1	-1	-1.0	-0.1	0

### FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, K.	6	12	8	50

### DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Williams, J.	6	26	31	57	1	4
Hesse, J.	6	18	31	49	0	2
Wistrom, G.	6	15	16	31	3	4.5
Foreman, J.	6	9	18	27	0	0.5
Peter, J.	5	7	17	24	0	2
Minter, M.	6	6	18	24	3	0
Farley, T.	4	13	9	22	0	1
Stokes, E.	6	11	9	20	0	0
Rucker, M.	5	12	7	19	0	5.5
Tomich, J.	6	6	13	19	0	2
Kelsay, C.	6	9	8	17	0	2
Warfield, E.	6	7	8	15	1	0
Booker, M.	6	6	9	15	1	0
Ogard, J.	5	10	5	15	0	1
McFarlin, O.	5	4	9	13	0	0
Terwilliger, R.	5	4	9	13	0	0
Brown, R.	6	7	4	11	2	0
Shaw, B.	5	7	4	11	0	1
Wiltz, J.	6	2	8	10	0	1
Fullman, M.	6	7	3	10	0	0
List, G.	4	5	1	6	0	0
Brown, M.	5	4	1	5	0	0
Ortiz, T.	3	2	3	5	0	1
Saltsman, S.	5	1	4	5	0	0
Jackson, J.	2	1	3	4	0	0.5
Toline, T.	3	1	2	3	0	0
Legate, B.	2	1	2	3	0	0
Walther, E.	2	2	1	3	0	0
Johnson, E.	3	1	2	3	0	0
Warren, S.	3	1	1	2	0	0.5
Allen, D.	1	1	1	2	0	1
Roberts, M.	2	1	1	2	0	0
Peterson, J.	2	1	1	2	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS	NU	OPP
Total Offensive Yards	2,491	1,393
Net Rushing Yards	1,677	420
Passing Yards	814	973

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOT
NU	34	73	76	49	232
Opponents	16	20	7	12	55

## 1996 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

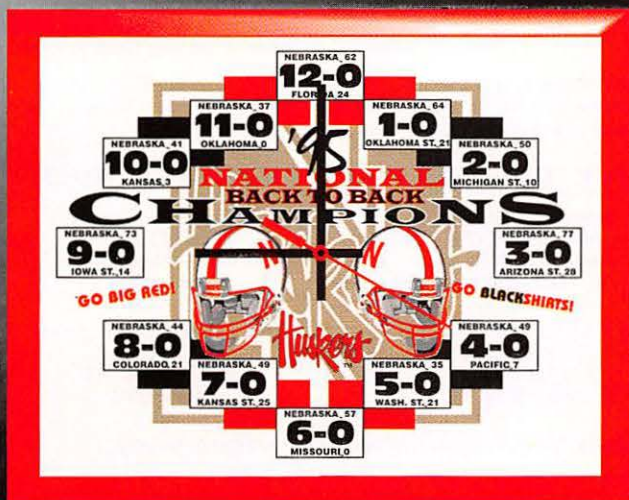
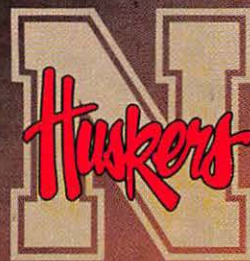
Record	(Conference)	— 5-1 (3-0)
Sept. 7	Michigan State	W, 55-14
Sept. 21	@ Arizona State	L, 19-0
Sept. 28	Colorado State	W, 65-9
Oct. 5	@ Kansas State	W, 39-3
Oct. 12	Baylor	W, 49-0
Oct. 19	@ Texas Tech	W, 24-10
Oct. 26	Kansas	
Nov. 2	@ Oklahoma	
Nov. 9	Missouri	
Nov. 16	@ Iowa State	
Nov. 29	Colorado	



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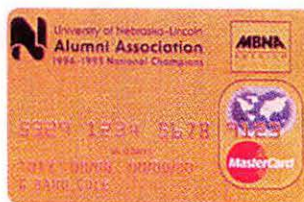
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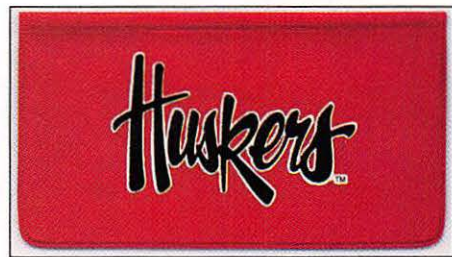
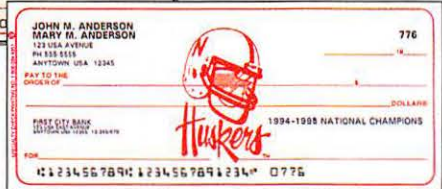
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**S**ome say it is Jaime Krondak's skill as a player. Krondak says it is just fundamentals and a matter of circumstance.

However you analyze it, one thing is certain: As Jaime Krondak goes, so goes the Nebraska volleyball team.

"I really believe she is a barometer on how we play," Husker head coach Terry Pettit said. "When she goes out, plays hard and competes and just hangs in there, we're a very good volleyball team."

That means Krondak, a 6-foot outside hitter, has had a pretty solid season so far. After a sweep of Colorado in Boulder on Oct. 9, Nebraska's record was 13-2. The Huskers were ranked fourth in *Volleyball Magazine's* rankings and sixth in the *USA Today/AVCA Coaches* poll. Nebraska rode a 22-game home-winning streak, and its loss to North Carolina on Sept. 13 was only the fourth in three years.

Krondak had produced double figures in kills and digs in eight of the 14 matches preceding the one at Colorado. She was

averaging 3.05 kills and 3.45 digs per game, ranking second on the

team in both categories. However, in a loss against Hawaii, the loss to North Carolina in Chapel Hill and a slew of other four- and five-game matches this

season, Krondak had struggled.

Most of the problems, she said, were caused by her own apprehension.

"At the beginning of the season, I really didn't know what to expect," Krondak said. "But I started out playing pretty well and having fun. Then, I think I just hit a struggling point. I wasn't passing well or hitting well. I was thinking too much, and I think, it is all a matter of mindset."

"I was putting a lot of pressure on myself."

With the help of teammates and her coaching staff, Krondak realized that one player can't do it all. "Everybody makes mistakes. Nobody is perfect," she said. "I wasn't nervous or even thinking about it until I started struggling. I think I've learned to con-

trol that. I realize how to deal with the pressure."

One way Krondak has dealt with the pressures is by intelligently taking the focus off of the outside hitters' athletic ability and skills and placing it on their ability to stick with the fundamentals. She believes her passing ability, along with a consistent attitude and stability, are the cornerstones of her game.

"If I'm passing well, then it helps our offense really open up," Krondak said. "It all starts with passing and being in the right place when you're doing it. I'm trying to be stable for the team."

"As an outside hitter, you're going to have to touch the ball a lot. Kate (Crnich) and I really have to pass well to make things work." Crnich, a senior, also is an outside hitter.

Since an outside hitter is such an integral part of an offense, there are going to be times when even the smallest errors are magnified. "A couple of times this season, she's had a breakdown for two or three points, and it doesn't happen for us," Pettit said. "It's not physical, it's mental, and I think she's done a good job. We continually address that issue with her, and the issue is not whether she has 20 kills or 30 kills. The issue is, 'Does she

play with poise and confidence and allow the team to stay organized?'"

"The same issue is there for Kate Crnich, because they are our prime passers. I think Jaime has matured a lot. As she matures more, she's going to move from a good player to a great player."

One of those factors is the road trips. "On the road, there is a lot of time to do homework," said Krondak, a sophomore from Lincoln. "But it's missing the classes that is tough. I hate missing classes. To make up for it, there are always a lot of late nights doing homework. That's all you can do."

The Huskers, along with every other squad in the Big 12, are up against demanding short-term trips on the weekends, and occasionally in the middle of the week, that test their mental and physical strength.

Nebraska, for example, traveled to Boulder on a Wednesday, returned home to prepare for a much-awaited exhibition match against the United States Olympic team on Friday night at the NU Coliseum, only to turn around and take on an athletic Oklahoma team in an afternoon match at home on Sunday. The Huskers made short work of the Sooners winning, 3-0 (15-11, 15-7, 15-0).

But it was done without Krondak who sat the match out while battling the flu. Against the USA Volleyball Team, she played only two points of the second game. Freshman Mandy Monson made her first career start in Krondak's place against OU. Monson posted five kills, four digs and two block assists.

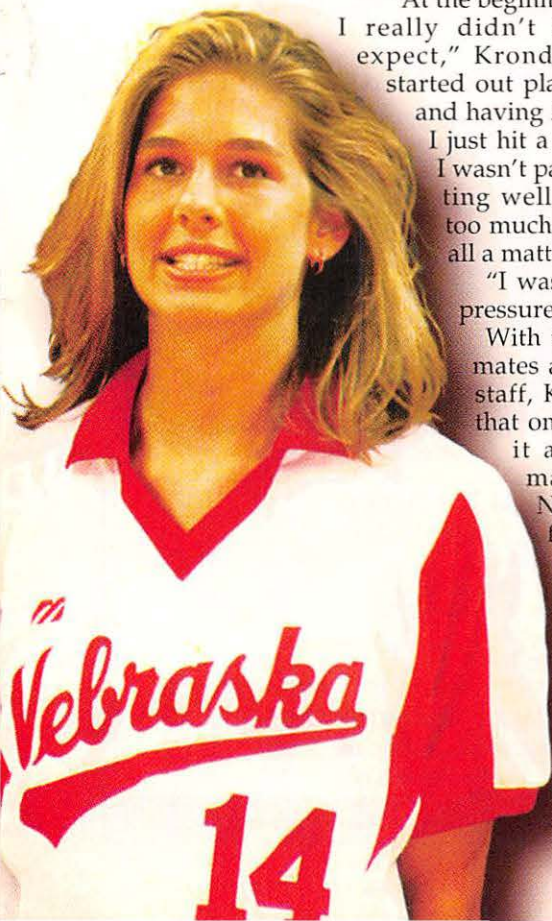
"It just takes over your life," Krondak said. "It's really tough."

But Krondak and the Huskers know what is expected of them every week.

"My personal goals are all team-oriented," Krondak said. "We want to win the Big 12, and to do that, I have to continue passing the ball real well. It's more of a situation of my becoming more consistent with my play to help the team. That's where my personal goals are." ■

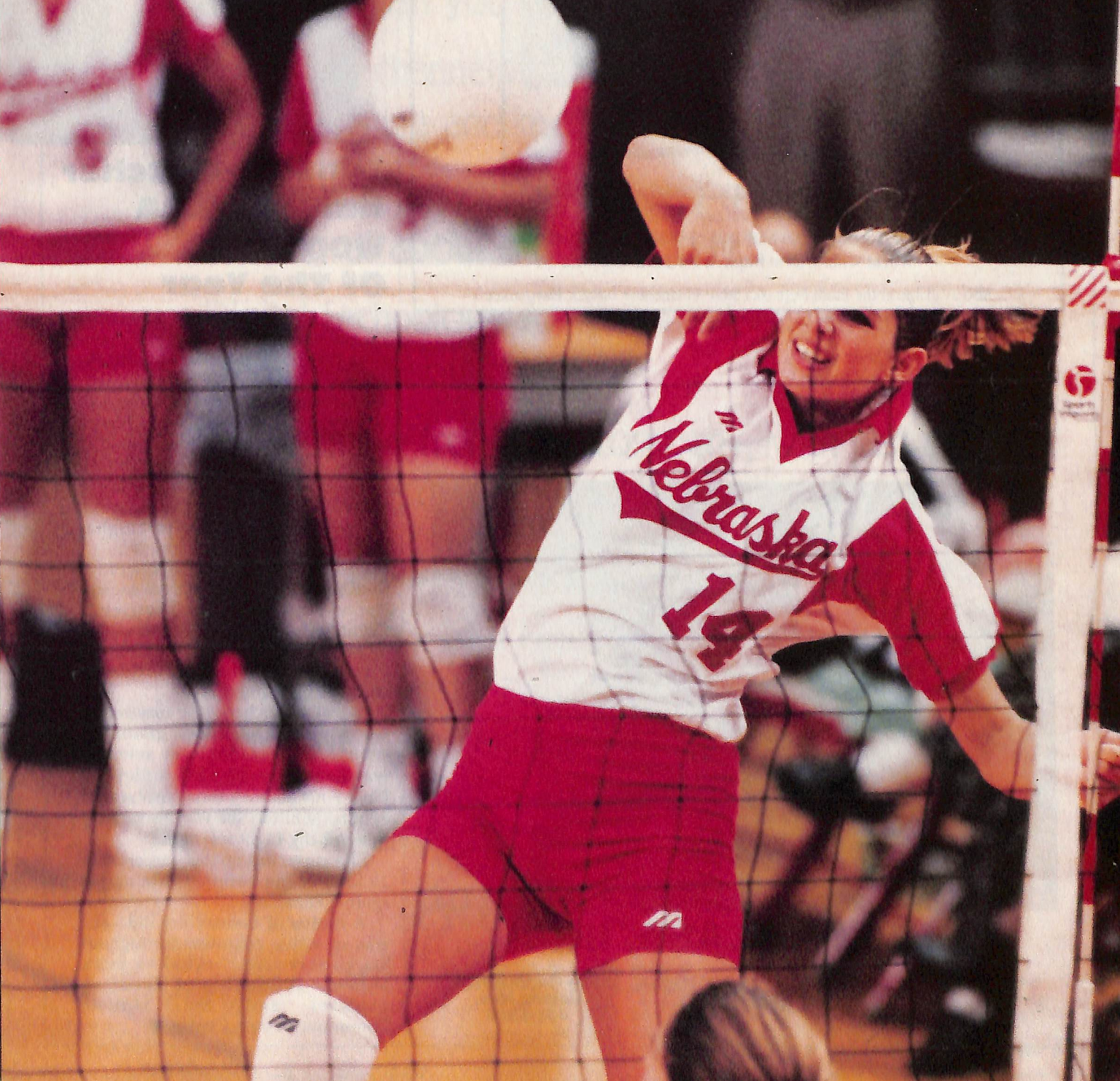
## As Sophomore Jaime Krondak Goes, So Goes The Nebraska Volleyball Team

• By Mike Friend





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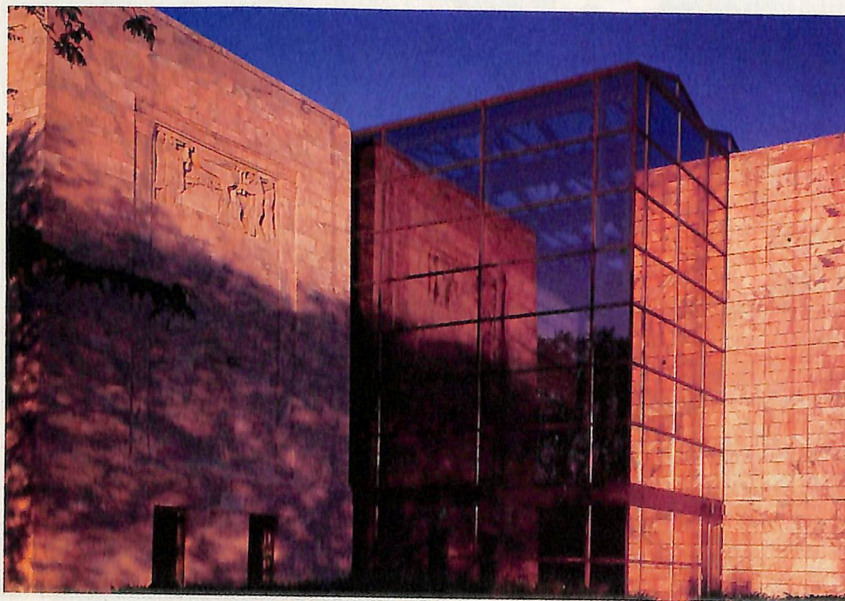
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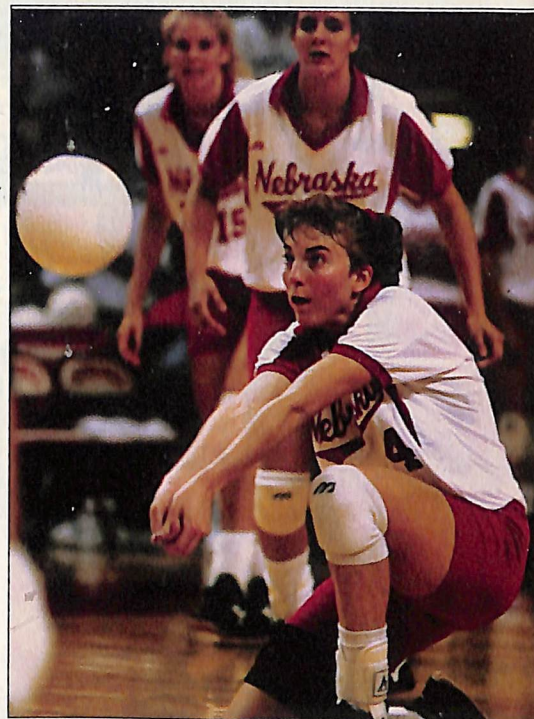


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## Winsett-Fletcher Named NCAA Woman Of The Year

Billie Winsett-Fletcher, a member on last year's NCAA national champion volleyball team, was named the NCAA Woman of the Year. Winsett-Fletcher became the six recipient of the award when she was chosen over 333 other entries.

She joined former winners Connecticut basketball player Rebecca Lobo (1995) and Arizona track and field star Tanya Hughes (1994).

Selection is made by a committee which picks an honoree from each of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The field is narrowed to 10 national finalists and the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics chooses the winner.

Winsett-Fletcher, who majored in secondary education and graduated with a 3.833 grade point average, was named to the 1995 volleyball Final Four team. A three-year starter at outside hitter, she was also a two-time All-Big Eight selection.

She capped a stellar career with 25 kills in the national title match against Texas.

A native of Booneville, Ind., she was an active volunteer throughout her Husker career including work with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Malone Community Youth Center. ■



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# Warren Piece

*In an effort to maintain defensive dominance, Cornhuskers target Louisiana, Texas defensive ends*

**T**here are a number of ways to look at Nebraska's dominance in the 1990s. A number of factors go into it, but the general thought across the country centers around the Huskers' commitment to a pressure defense.

The feeling is that the Nebraska offense has always been good, even though it has evolved into more of a multiple offense based on the option.

The defense has been good as well, but it wasn't until NU head coach Tom Osborne changed his philosophy from the read-and-react style to all-out pressure that the Huskers were able to stop teams like Florida State and Miami.

It takes athletes with speed to do what Nebraska is doing defensively in the 1990s, and the Huskers have been able to recruit fast players. Speed on the edge, where pressure really counts in the pass rush, has made Nebraska one of the most feared defenses in the country. However, to continue the dominance, the Nebraska staff always is looking for the next great force on the corner.

The top defensive end prospect in the country is David Warren (6-foot-3, 235 pounds, 4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash) of Tyler (John Tyler), Texas. Warren is so gifted that many feel he is the top prep player in the country.

Warren exploded on the prep scene a year ago by leading his team to a perfect 16-0 record and the state championship as a defensive end and tight end. On defense, Warren averaged 2.5 sacks per game, and finished the season with 147 tackles. At tight end, he showed enough ability to draw recruiters' attention with 48 catches for 672 yards.

Warren's speed sets him apart from every other player in the country. Players this big just don't run a 4.5 consistently or a 10.6 in the 100-meters and 22.8 in the 200-meters, as Warren did.

Those intangibles add up to a big-time recruiting effort and Warren said he likes Nebraska, Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor, all three Florida schools, OU, Ohio State and Colorado.

"I really don't know that much about Nebraska, except that they are having great success right now and really have for some time," Warren said. "That alone grabs your attention. I also know they have a defensive scheme that could fit my talents perfectly, and they like to use players with my kind of abilities. I am not ready to set visits yet, but Nebraska is a school that I am considering."



Thomas Pittman (6-4, 255, 4.85) of Reserve (East St. John), La., is rated as the second-best defensive end in the country. In Nebraska's scheme, Pittman might wind up inside, but most college programs envision Pittman rushing off the edge. A very aggressive player, Pittman served notice that he could rush the quarterback with six sacks a year ago. However, he's having his coming-out party this year.

Through four games, Pittman has managed 30 tackles (including 12 for losses) and eight sacks. Pittman is a gifted athlete, hitting .390 in baseball, and he said he would like the opportunity to play both sports, maybe at Nebraska.

"Nebraska is a great program, maybe the best in the country," Pittman said. "They have so much consistency in what they do, and it's worked for so many years. I really can't find any problems with what they are doing, and I know that it would be a great opportunity to play there if I get that chance."

Pittman said he has an open mind towards recruiting. Texas A&M always seems to be at the top of his list, along with Nebraska, USC, Tennessee, Miami, Oklahoma, Michigan, Colorado, Oklahoma State and Florida.

RECRUITING



**Evan Perroni** (6-5, 245, 4.8) of Houston (Clear Lake) is among the top 100 players in Texas.

Perroni is a player who could wind up inside in Nebraska's scheme, but most colleges see him as a defensive end. Perroni admitted that he's leaning toward Texas A&M, but said that he is looking forward to taking a look at Nebraska.

"I set up an official visit with Nebraska for December 13th," Perroni said. "I really like their winning tradition and the way they seem to develop players bigger and faster."

Nebraska has gone into Oklahoma recently and raided the Sooner state of some of its better talent.

Do the names Will Shields, Mike Minter and Josh Heskew sound familiar? This year the Huskers are hot on the trail of preseason All-American **Daryl Bright** (6-4, 230, 4.6) of Tulsa (Booker T. Washington), Okla.

Bright dominated in 1995 with 108 tackles and eight sacks, and looks as if he will improve on those totals this season, having registered 60 tackles through five games, four sacks, four caused fumbles, three fumbles recovered and two interceptions.

Bright is the total package with speed, quickness and strength, and reportedly is planning to leave Oklahoma. He said he has the Huskers at the top of his list.

"Going to the Nebraska camp gave me a great perspective of their campus, which I don't have of some of the other schools I am considering," Bright said.

"I was able to look around, meet the coaches and learn some of their great technique, which I am using this season. Nebraska is one of the top colleges in the country, and I thought the people were very friendly."

The Huskers reportedly also are pursuing **Cory Callen** (6-3, 258, 4.6) of Jenks, Okla. Callen plays like a man among boys and said he likes OU, Colorado, Kansas State, Nebraska and Notre Dame.

The best defensive end in California is **Andre Carter** (6-3, 235, 4.7) of San Jose (Oak Grove), Calif. Carter excels at rushing the passer, and already has six sacks and one caused fumble.

Carter is still considering a number of schools, including Nebraska, Ohio State, Michigan, Rutgers, Miami, Northwestern, USC, UCLA.

**John Westra** (6-5, 230, 4.8) of Mesa (Red Mountain), Ariz., is another talented player for whom the Huskers lead, over Arizona State, USC, Arizona and Colorado.

**Orlando Dantzler** (6-5, 250, 4.8) of Purvis, Miss., also gets after the quarterback, having racked up 16 sacks a year ago.

Dantzler, who also made 125 tackles, said Notre Dame is the early leader over Nebraska, Alabama, Mississippi State, Florida State and Florida.

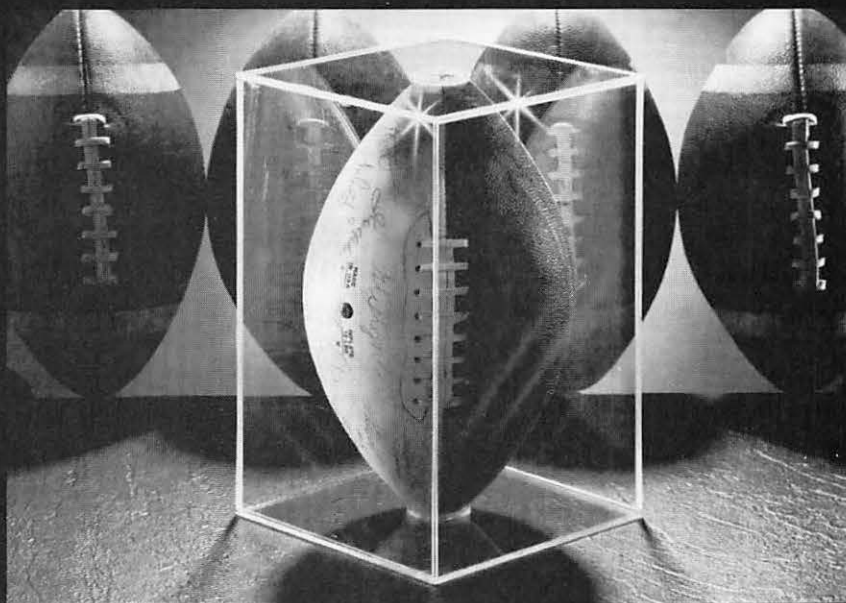
**Jack Bloom** (6-4, 235, 4.5) of Tom's River (South), N.J., is so athletic that he tested off the board in every testing situation available. Bloom benches an amazing 365 pounds to go with that speed, and is

said to be listing Florida and Nebraska at the top of his recruiting list, followed by Florida State, Syracuse, Maryland and Miami.

**Chuck Alston** (6-6, 245, 4.8) of Capitol Heights (Central), Md., is one of the better players in the East. Alston made 100 tackles last season, and has heard from over 80 schools. Nebraska, Maryland, North Carolina, Pittsburgh and Syracuse are his top five.

The way the Huskers are playing defense, they are attracting attention from some of the top pass-rushing talent in the country. Signing any of the top pass-rushers will allow the Huskers to maintain the defensive dominance they have enjoyed in recent years. ■

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# A Breed Apart

**Kicker Kris Brown and special teamers earn their respect on game day**

KRIS BROWN wanted a harder edge to his image, anyway.

"Everybody used to tell me I was soft," he said after kicking four field goals against Kansas State in Nebraska's Big 12 opener. So he agreed to have his head shaved.

Actually, "agreed" makes it sound as if he did it willingly, which wasn't exactly the case. Brown wasn't all that enthusiastic about the suggestion made by some defensive players during two-a-day practices. Jason Peter was among those who encouraged Brown to shave his head.

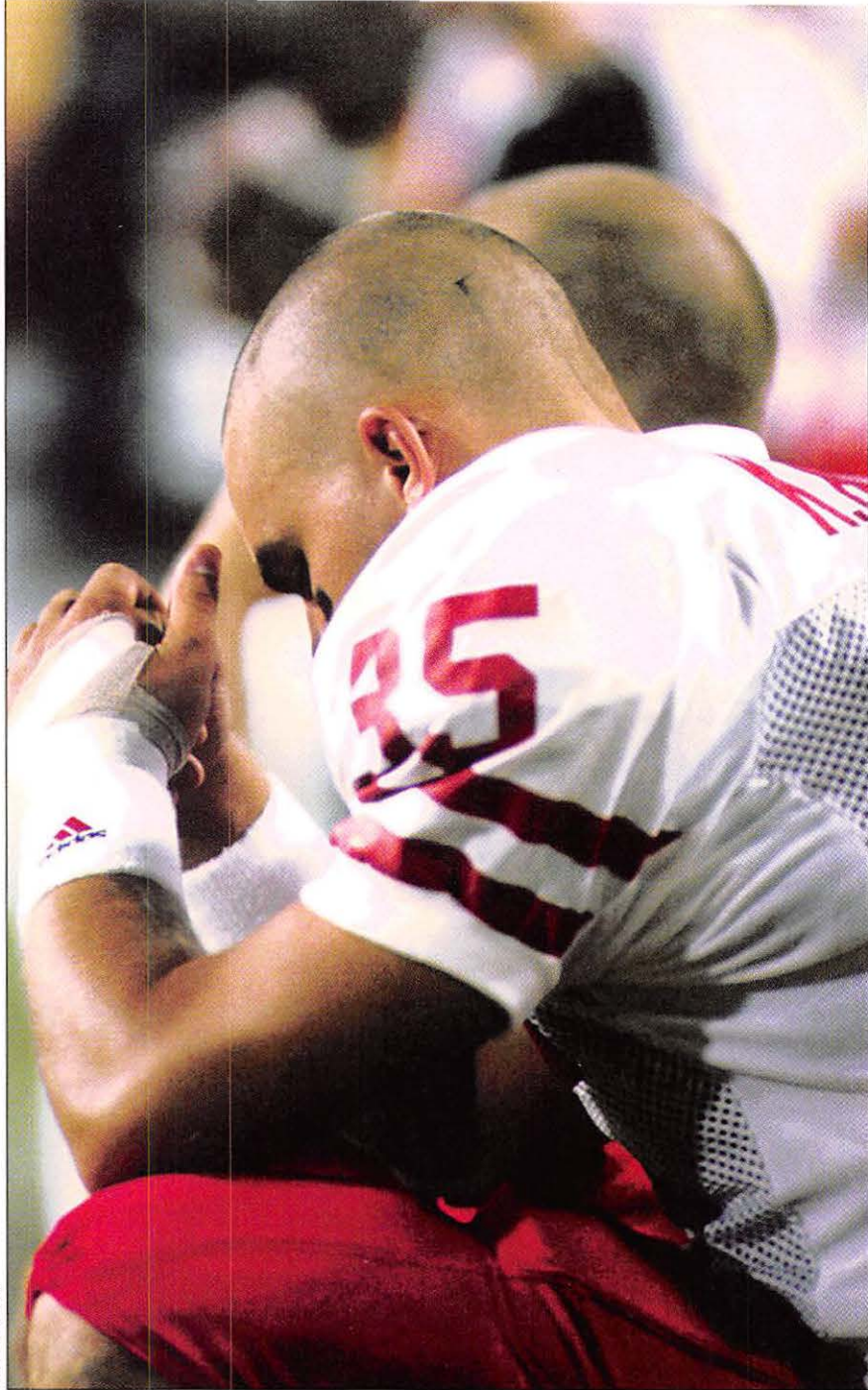
Brown wasn't about to argue, even though "I didn't like it at first," he said.

That's why, at first, he always wore a hat. Before long, however, he grew to like the look. "It's low maintenance," said Brown, the Cornhuskers' sophomore kicker. "I don't have to use very much shampoo. I don't have to comb it. And I can sleep a little later." There's no fussing in front of a mirror.

But even if Brown hadn't been happy with the look, he would have tolerated it for the team.

"Unity is something we talk about a lot here," he said. "This is a way for me to show I'm just as crazy as everyone else. It shows I'm in there, too, that I'll do whatever it takes... it's a bonding thing."

He paused, then added: "At least I've got the defensive line's respect now."



Michael Chow

Kickers don't always have the respect of their teammates, according to Brown. They are a breed apart. And their daily practice routine can reinforce feelings of alienation, you might say.

Not that Brown is complaining about his lot in life. In addition to kicking, he played quarterback at Carroll High School in Southlake, Texas. But he has no aspirations to do anything except kick now. "I think I'm happy where I'm at," he said. "I've got life too easy. I don't have to practice too hard."

That last part is something of an understatement, according to Jesse Kosch, the No. 1 punter. A typical day of practice goes something like this. The kickers stretch and warm

up like everyone else. While the rest of the team does station work, however, "we don't do much... usually nothing," Kosch said. "We'll play catch and walk around. Sometimes in the skeletons, they need us to fill in."

Kosch rushed for nearly 1,700 yards as an I-back his senior season at Scotus High School in Columbus, Neb. But he never thought seriously about doing anything except punting when he walked on. If there had been a men's varsity soccer team at Nebraska, he might well have gone out for that instead of football. "I probably would have had a better chance to play soccer right away," he said.

Because he's a former quarter-



back, Brown is better at playing catch. "Kris throws well. I try, but they always make fun of me," said Kosch. "I can kick a better spiral than I can throw."

Midway through practice, they join the rest of the team to work on the kicking game. Most teams make kicking the last part of practice. Nebraska used to do it that way, too. In recent seasons, however, "we work on kicking in the middle of practice," coach Tom Osborne said. "We don't work on it at the end, usually, because we want them to feel like it's important. A lot of emphasis is put on it."

Osborne refers to them as "kicking teams" rather than "special teams," also to emphasize their importance. "Our philosophy has been, basically, to put the best possible players on the kicking teams," he said. "They're not teams where you take a bunch of guys on the bench and give them an opportunity to play. These are the best players we've got to do the job. I think that philosophy generally helps."

Brown, who made his first seven field goal kicks, including a 50-yarder, before finally missing, and Kosch, who averaged more than 45 yards per punt on his first 19 punts, play key roles on the kicking teams, as do the punt and kickoff returners, including cornerback Mike Fullman, wingback Shevin Wiggins, rover Octavious McFarlin, and I-backs Damon Benning and DeAngelo Evans.

But there are other Cornhuskers whose contributions to the kicking game are vital, though often unnoticed. On the kickoff team, for example, "what you really need are guys who will go down and cover kicks and hit people, (who will) break up the wedge and make tackles," Osborne said.

Two of the best are backup fullbacks Billy Legate and Joel Makovicka. The 5-foot-11, 220-pound Legate, a sophomore walk-on from Elgin, Neb., by way of Clearwater High School, is following in a tradition of wedge-breakers that has included the almost legendary Lance Gray, who earned the nickname "Bullethead" and established a lofty standard for reckless abandon in covering kicks.

"Billy Legate has been a tremendous player in that regard," said Osborne.

So has the 5-foot-11, 235-pound Makovicka, a walk-on from Brainard, Neb.

"They've been key players. They're 'R-1' and 'L-1' on the kickoff team, which means they're on both sides of the kicker and they go down and they hit the wedge," said Osborne. "And the good thing about it is, they not only hit the wedge, they go through the wedge and then they make tackles."

Senior Jon Hesse, the starting middle linebacker, is another regular on the kickoff team.

"A lot of times, a guy gets to be a starter and all of a sudden covering kicks is not quite as important. He's looking for ways to get off it and get somebody else on. But Jon's done this for three years. He wants to be

**A senior starter on offense, Jon Vedral continues to play a vital role in special teams holding for extra point kicks and field goals.**



on it, and I think he'd feel a little hurt if we took him off," Osborne said.

Mike Brown, a true freshman cornerback, is another regular on the kickoff coverage team.

Wingback Jon Vedral, like Hesse a senior and starter, has continued to play an important role in the kicking game. He holds for extra point kicks and field goals, and he's a "double-bumper" on the punt team. "Almost any punt protection scheme that you devise, you can take care of everybody man-on-man. But eventually somebody's got to block two people, with the right configuration," said Osborne.

"That's hard to do when they're flying at you. Jonnie (Vedral) is essentially the guy who has to do that. I don't think we've had a

blocked kick when he's been in there. Last year we had him out of there against Kansas State for one punt, and we got the punt blocked. He's also very good covering kicks."

Senior offensive tackle Adam Treu handles the deep snapping, replacing Aaron Graham, who now plays for the NFL's Arizona Cardinals. "Adam also has to cover punts," Osborne said. "For a big guy who weighs 300 pounds to play scrimmage plays and then cover five or six punts a game is pretty good."

There are others who make significant contributions to the kicking game, including high-profile punt blockers Terrell Farley and Eric Warfield, who "kind of threaten people," said Osborne.

Playing on the kicking teams is another way of belonging. During a recent Tuesday news conference,

Brown was asked if, as a kicker, he felt isolated from the rest of the team. Not really, he said. "I consider myself a football player. Basically, I'm going to do my job. That's something I have pride in."

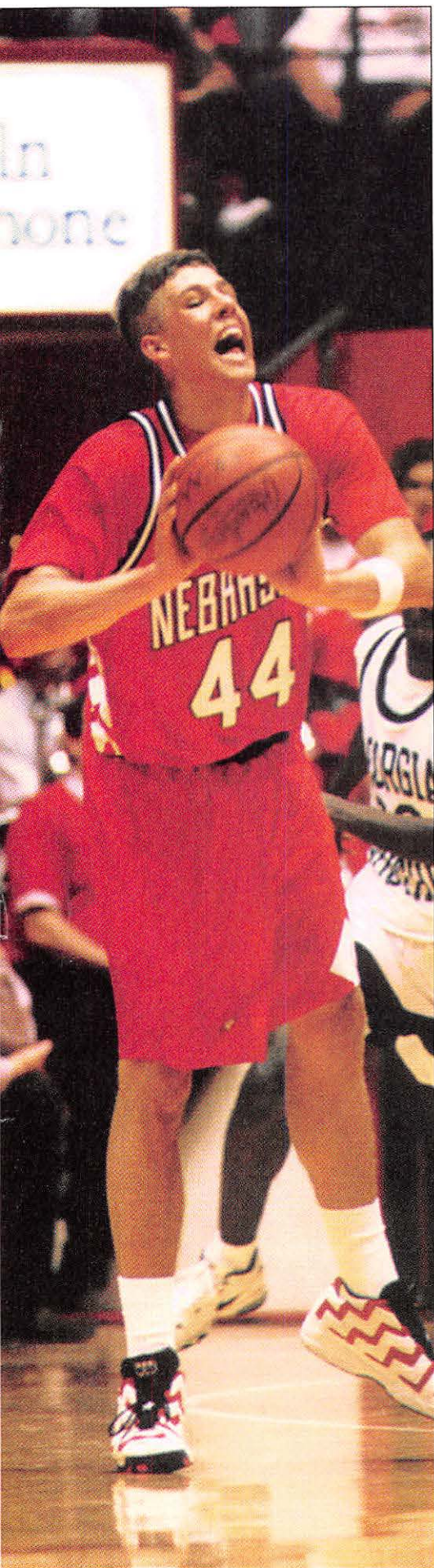
Practice appearances to the contrary, he and Kosch are just as committed as everyone else.

"During the off-season, I challenged myself to be more consistent on kickoffs," Brown said. "My job is to help establish field position, and I wanted the defensive coaching staff to feel like they can rely on me. But even if I don't put it in the endzone, we've got guys who can go down and bust people up."

"I've got the best 10 guys out there with me on kickoffs."

And many of them have shaved heads, just like he does. ■





**Y**ou might have guessed that the Nebraska football team had a new candidate for tight end working in the Cornhuskers' state-of-the-art strength and conditioning complex

over the summer.

He was a little light for someone 6-foot-8. But he appeared to be working himself into football shape, alongside the other players. There certainly could be no doubt about his determination.

The player in question was Andy Markowski, a sophomore forward on the Nebraska basketball team who, after analyzing his play last season at 205 pounds, decided he needed to bulk up a bit. "I just got shoved around," he said. "And the next thing I knew, I'd been pushed 2 or 3 feet from the blocks, where I wasn't comfortable. Bernard (Garner) could shove me around in practice, too. Now he can't."

## GETTING PUMPED

**A rigorous off-season conditioning program has Andy Markowski bigger, stronger and ready to push back**

Markowski wasn't any 98-pound weakling on the beach last season. But he's sturdier, after putting on more than 12 pounds of muscle. "My body fat hasn't gone up, so it's good weight," he said.

His summer was arranged to achieve that end. He worked in construction, played a 10-game tour in Europe (Spain and the Czech Republic) with a select team and trained with the football team. His routine included lifting for 45 minutes and running for 40 minutes, four days a week. It was intense, and "really efficient," he said. "You find out how dedicated, how really focused they (football players) are."

"It's called conditioning, but the

**The 6-foot-8 Andy Markowski added 12 pounds of muscle over the summer.**

focus is on speed and agility. My times have all improved."

For some, training with the football team might be a daunting undertaking. But Markowski was enthusiastic about the opportunity. He had to, keep up or be left behind. That motivated him.

He was comfortable working out with the football players. "I knew a lot of them before. I know even more now," Markowski said. "I'm a hard worker, and it's fun to be around that atmosphere."

"I've always been real dedicated in whatever I've done. That's how I've approached things. I shouldn't be out-worked by anybody. I should be the guy everybody else tries to catch up to."

Markowski's dedication is extraordinary, according to Cornhusker coach Danny Nee. "Andy is just a clone in his work ethic and toughness of Bruce Chubick," Nee said in the spring. "And that's the best compliment I can give, because Bruce Chubick was the toughest ever to

play here."

Markowski, like Chubick, has small-town Nebraska roots. Despite missing much of the season because of a foot fracture, he was first-team all-state as a senior at Ord High, averaging 23.2 points, 16.6 rebounds and 6.2 blocked shots for a team that finished 16-7 in the state's second-largest classification.

He also played football. He was a quarterback, in a "three-step, dropback passing offense." His high school coach told him he probably could walk on at Nebraska as a tight end. "But my body is more geared to basketball," said Markowski, who weighed less than 200 pounds when

**HOOPS**



he was a freshman.

He used a redshirt season to get to the 205 pounds at which he played last season. He saw limited action in 28 games, missing five because of a broken hand, suffered in the Northern Iowa game.

Despite that limited resume, however, his playing time figures to increase significantly this season. He is one of five veterans on a roster that includes only eight other scholarship players.

Markowski averaged 6.6 points and 4.5 rebounds on the European trip, playing for an all-star team sponsored by People-to-People Sports and coached by Iowa assistant Gary Close.

Markowski is optimistic about this season even though the team is small in numbers and limited in experience. The ups and downs of a year ago have strengthened the resolve of the returning players, he said. Nebraska's season-ending run to the NIT championship, "to the outside, might have seemed really dramatic because we were falling apart at the hinges. But it proved to me that the players on my team can handle adversity. It doesn't matter what people say. That's been a springboard.

"Every time I look at the ring (from the NIT), it reminds me of how hard we worked for it," said Markowski. "It shows me what focus can do. You have to have that."

He has that, as his summer showed. And his teammates apparently have it, too.

"The new guys, we're kind of dictating to them the way we want things to be. They don't know any different. We're saying: 'This is the way it's going to be.' Hopefully, that will help build into them (the right attitude). 'Can I get away with loafing?' They know we're not going to stand for it."

As always, the players met regularly at the Devaney Sports Center for pick-up games. The games began promptly at 3 p.m., Markowski said. If someone showed up even a little bit late, "it was like, 'What's the deal?' In the past, players would straggle in at 3:10 or 3:15, and we would just wait for them. That's the difference with this group. It's all about discipline, doing things the right way."

This basketball season, you're either on the bus, or off it.

"So far, all nine of us have been on the bus," Markowski said. ■

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# BEST OF THE BEST

## the numbers game

### Jerseys 51-60

*Editor's Note: This is the seventh of an 11-part series featuring our picks as the best players ever to wear each jersey number in the modern era.*

*Next week we'll break down numbers 61 through 70.*

**H**is nickname was "Trainwreck," and he became a starter as a 21-year-old freshman because of wartime eligibility rules. Even though the teams for which he played were a combined 11-26 in his four seasons, he stood above the rest, distinguishing himself as a rough-and-tumble competitor.

He played fullback, center and linebacker, earning all-conference honors at two of those positions, becoming one of just two Huskers to accomplish that. The other was Guy Chamberlin.

He was the only Nebraska football player ever to be chosen first-team all-conference four times, and he earned All-America recognition as a center and linebacker as a senior in 1949.

He was as direct as he was rugged, once telling a newspaper reporter: "If I make an ordinary tackle, the fans will ask: 'so what?' But when Trainwreck hits them, they know they've been hit."

A Chicago newspaper described him and his Cornhusker teammates as "a tough and stubborn bunch of roughnecks . . . big, brutal and at times they performed with murder in their hearts."

He came from Omaha, where his coach at South High School, Corny Collin, gave him his unique nickname. He stood a shade under 5-foot-11, and weighed just over 200 pounds. His name, of course, is Tom Novak. The late Lyell Bremser, a voice of Cornhusker football from 1938 to 1983, once said of him: "My eyes have never seen Tom Novak's equal at any position."

After his collegiate career was completed, the No. 60 jersey he wore as a senior was retired by the Nebraska letterman's club. The No. 60 remains retired, the only jersey to retain such status.

No Cornhusker football player will wear a No. 60 jersey ever again.

There can be considerable debate concerning many of the players who have been chosen for *Huskers Illustrated's* "By the Numbers." As indicated in the introduction, some selections are, of necessity, arbitrary and as such, simply representative of the great players who wore particular

numbers.

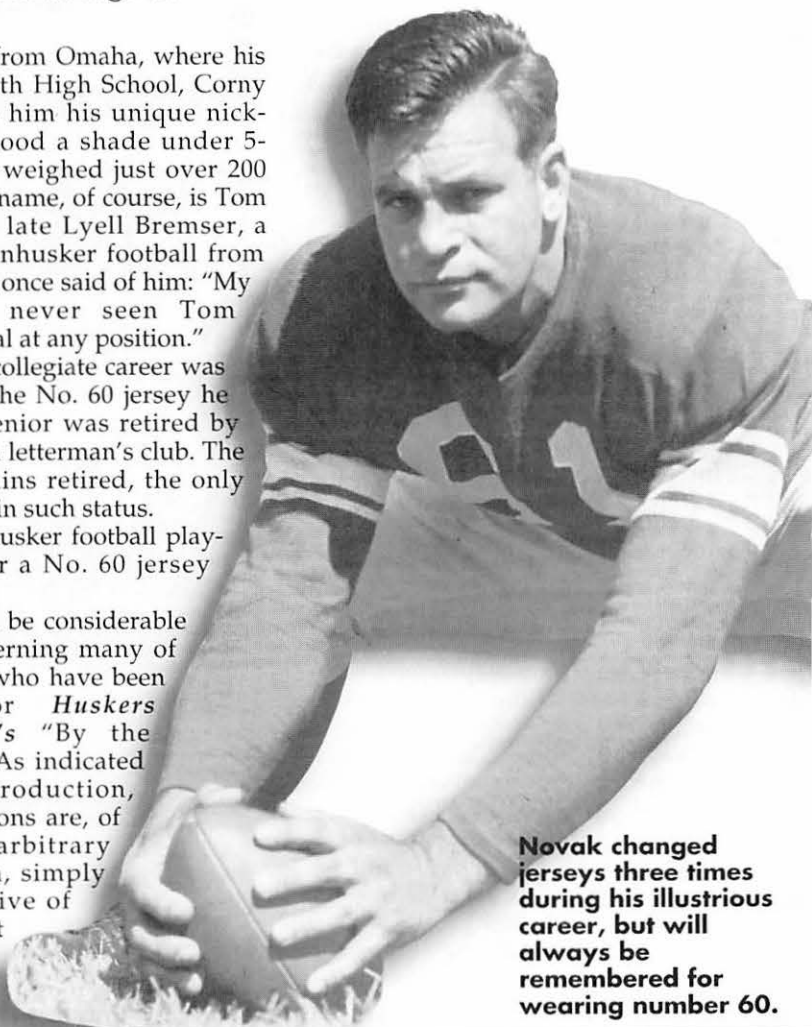
That is not the case here, however. Clearly, Novak is the choice. No. 60 is his.

Novak was a two-way player. Although his reputation was built on defense, he played center on offense, which means he also fits into Nebraska's tradition of All-America centers, best represented by Dave Rimington (No. 50), the focus of the previous installment of "By the Numbers."

Because centers typically have worn jersey numbers in the 50s, five other All-America centers are included this time.

#### #51: Mick Tingelhoff

Mick Tingelhoff came from Lexington, Neb., to play for the Bill Jennings-coached teams that won only 11 of 30 games, along with one tie, over three seasons. The 6-foot-1, 210-pound Tingelhoff was a co-captain as a senior in 1961. He was good enough to be chosen to play in the Senior Bowl game.



**Novak changed jerseys three times during his illustrious career, but will always be remembered for wearing number 60.**

#51: Mick Tingelhoff  
(1959-61)

#52: Tom Davis  
(1975-77)  
Lyle Sittler (1962-64)

#53: Hugh Rhea  
(1929-31)  
Randy Schleusener (1978-80)

#54: Rik Bonness  
(1973-75)  
(tie) Aaron Graham  
(1992-95)

#55: Rod Horn  
(1977-79)  
Christian Peter (1993-95)  
Barry Alvarez (1965-67)

*Top choice in white (years lettered at Nebraska)*



It wasn't until after his Cornhusker career, however, that Tingelhoff's talents as a football player were properly acknowledged. He earned a job with the Minnesota Vikings as a non-drafted player in 1962, and he remained with the Vikings for 17 seasons. During that time he became an All-Pro center.

**#52: Tom Davis**

**Also: Lyle Sittler**

Center Tom Davis earned All-America honors from *The Football News* as a senior in 1977. He was a two-year starter, after backing up Rik Bonness (see No. 54) as a sophomore. The 6-foot-3 Davis, who came from Omaha, played at 238 pounds, an indication of how times have changed.

Lyle Sittler played center for Bob Devaney's first three teams (1962-64) wearing jersey No. 52. He was a Cornhusker co-captain and earned first-team all-conference honors as a senior.

Sittler, from Crete, Neb., stood 6-foot and weighed 223 pounds.

**#53: Hugh Rhea**

**Also: Randy Schleusener**

Hugh Rhea began his career at Nebraska as a center. He was a third-string center to begin his sophomore season in 1929. By season's end, he was starting at tackle, the position at which he earned All-America honors as a junior. Rhea came from Arlington, Neb. A newspaper reporter described him as "gawky" and "red-faced." He was a rugged 210 pounds, and rarely got a rest, which was typical of Cornhusker teams coached by D.X. Bible, the "Little Colonel."

Rhea was an All-Big Six selection in 1930 and 1931. The 1931 team finished 8-2-0 and won a second conference title in Rhea's three seasons. That team included center Lawrence Ely, who would earn All-America honors in 1932, and George Sauer, a consensus All-America full-

back in 1933.

Rhea was a dual-sport athlete, competing as a shot putter on the Cornhuskers' track and field team.

Randy Schleusener, one of many South Dakota athletes who have made significant contributions to Nebraska's football success (he was from Rapid City) would be a good alternative at No. 53. He earned All-America recognition as a guard in 1980. He also was a two-time Academic All-American.

**#54: Rik Bonness  
(tie) Aaron Graham**

This one is too close to call, so Rik Bonness and Aaron Graham, both All-America centers, share the honor. Bonness was a starter on head coach Tom Osborne's first three teams (1973-75). Graham, a co-captain as a senior last season, earned four letters and was the solid foundation of the offensive lines that opened the way to Osborne's first two national championships.

The 6-foot-4, 223-pound Bonness came from Bellevue, Neb., to earn All-America honors in 1974 and 1975. Bonness was the seventh Cornhusker to be a two-time All-American. The list has increased by only four since then. The other centers on the select list are Dave Rimington and Jake Young.

Graham was a first-team All-American according to the Associated Press and the *Football News* last season. He was a two-time, first-team All-Big Eight selection and a 1995 Academic All-American, as well as a three-time academic all-conference honoree. In addition to back-to-back national championships, the teams for which he played produced three consecutive undefeated and untied regular seasons.

**#55: Rod Horn  
Also: Barry Alvarez,  
Christian Peter**

Rod Horn came from Fresno, Calif., to become a three-year regular at defensive tackle. He stood 6-foot-5 and weighed 255 pounds. He used his extraordinary strength to overpower blockers. He was a two-time All-Big Eight selection and received

All-America honorable mention in 1979.

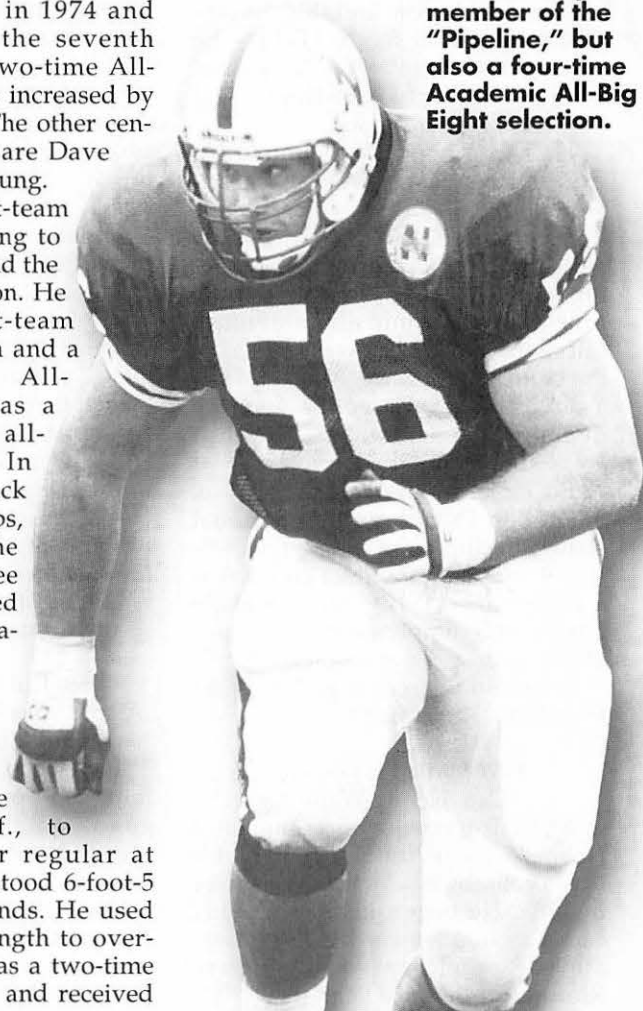
Horn was as successful in the classroom as he was on the football field. He was an Academic All-American as a senior, with a 3.296 cumulative grade-point average as a natural resources major.

Another defensive tackle, Christian Peter, would be an equally reasonable choice for No. 55. He was an emotional leader on the back-to-back national championship teams. Peter, a co-captain, was first-team All-Big Eight and received All-America honorable mention last season.

As a senior he totaled 46 tackles including five sacks. Over his three-year career, Peter racked up 124 tackles including 20 tackles for losses and 33 quarterback hurries.

Peter, who was plagued by off-the-field problems during his career, was drafted in the fifth round of the 1996 NFL draft by the New England Patriots. Within two weeks he was cut.

**Rob Zatechka was not only a member of the "Pipeline," but also a four-time Academic All-Big Eight selection.**



**#56: Rob Zatechka  
(1991-94)  
Ed Periard (1968-70)**

**#57: Mark Travnitzky  
(1982-84)  
Ken Walker (1989-90)**

**#58: Harry Griminger  
(1982-84)**

**#59: Jim Osberg  
(1965-66)  
James Wightman (1975-77)  
Curt Hineland (1979-81)**

**#60: Tom Novak  
(1946-49)**



His brother Jason, a junior defensive tackle who played along side Christian last year, traded the No. 95 jersey he wore last year for No. 55 this season.

"I wouldn't say I'm dedicating the season to him (Christian)," Jason Peter told the *Omaha World-Herald*. "But I'm certainly playing for him. With all the stuff he's gone through, my wearing 55 kind of is a way to show I won't forget what he's gone through and everything he's done for this team."

Barry Alvarez, now the head coach at Wisconsin, wore No. 55 as a Cornhusker linebacker from 1965 to 1967.

#### #56: Rob Zatechka

Also: Ed Periard

Rob Zatechka lettered four times as an offensive lineman, first as a guard and then as a tackle. He was a co-captain and a second-team All-Big Eight selection at tackle on the 1994 national championship team. As such, he was a member of the original "Pipeline."

Beyond his considerable accomplishments on the football field — he now starts for the NFL's New York Giants — Zatechka distinguished himself in the classroom.

He had a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade-point average in biological sciences and won all kinds of academic honors. Zatechka was a two-time Academic All-American, a three-time academic all-district pick and a four-time academic all-conference selection. In 1994, he was chosen as the co-Big Eight Male Athlete of the Year. In short, Zatechka was the definitive student-athlete. Zatechka was 6-foot-5 and 315 pounds.

Ed Periard, who wore jersey No. 56 on Bob Devaney's first national championship team in 1970, was 5-foot-9 and 201 pounds. Periard was a first-team All-Big Eight middle guard, who compensated for his lack of size with speed and quickness.

"Fast Eddie" came to Nebraska from Birch Run, Mich.

#### #57: Mark Traynowicz

Also: Kenny Walker

Mark Traynowicz was another of Nebraska's All-America centers. He was a consensus selection as a senior in 1984. He began his Cornhusker career as an offensive tackle, but was moved to center in 1983 after Dave Rimington departed for the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals.

Traynowicz was an Academic All-American in 1984, as well as a

two-time Academic All-Big Eight selection, with a 3.60 cumulative grade-point average as an engineering major.

Kenny Walker would be a good alternate choice at No. 57. Walker, who is deaf, earned All-America recognition in 1990, after becoming a regular at defensive lineman in 1989. At 6-foot-4 and 240 pounds, he was an undersized tackle — he was recruited out of high school in Crane, Texas, as a linebacker. But his exceptional athletic ability allowed him to become a devastating pass rusher. He had 4.58 speed in the 40-yard dash, making him the sixth-fastest Cornhusker, regardless of position, in 1990. Walker had a remarkable 21 tackles for losses of 105 yards as a senior, including 11 quarterback sacks.

Linebacker Bob Nelson, a second-round NFL draft pick in 1975, is another who wore jersey No. 57.

#### #58: Harry Grimminger

Harry Grimminger came from Grand Island, Neb., to earn All-America honors from *The Football News* as an offensive guard in 1984. He was a consensus all-conference selection, joining center Mark Traynowicz and tackle Mark Behning on the All-Big Eight first team.

Grimminger, who earned the nickname "Dirty Harry," was the Cornhuskers' left guard. Behning was the left tackle.

Grimminger backed up Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winner Dean Steinkuhler as a sophomore, then moved to the other guard position, where he started 25 consecutive games.

#### #59: Jim Osberg

Also: James Wightman, Curt Hineland

Jim Osberg was a 6-foot, 205-pound offensive guard from Minneapolis, Minn. He didn't emerge until the 1995 season, when he was a junior. Midway through the season, he became a starter for what was arguably head coach Bob Devaney's best team prior to the 1970 and 1971 national champions. Osberg

started the entire 1966 season, logging more playing time than all but three teammates. He was an Academic All-American in 1965, as well as a two-time Academic All-Big Eight selection.

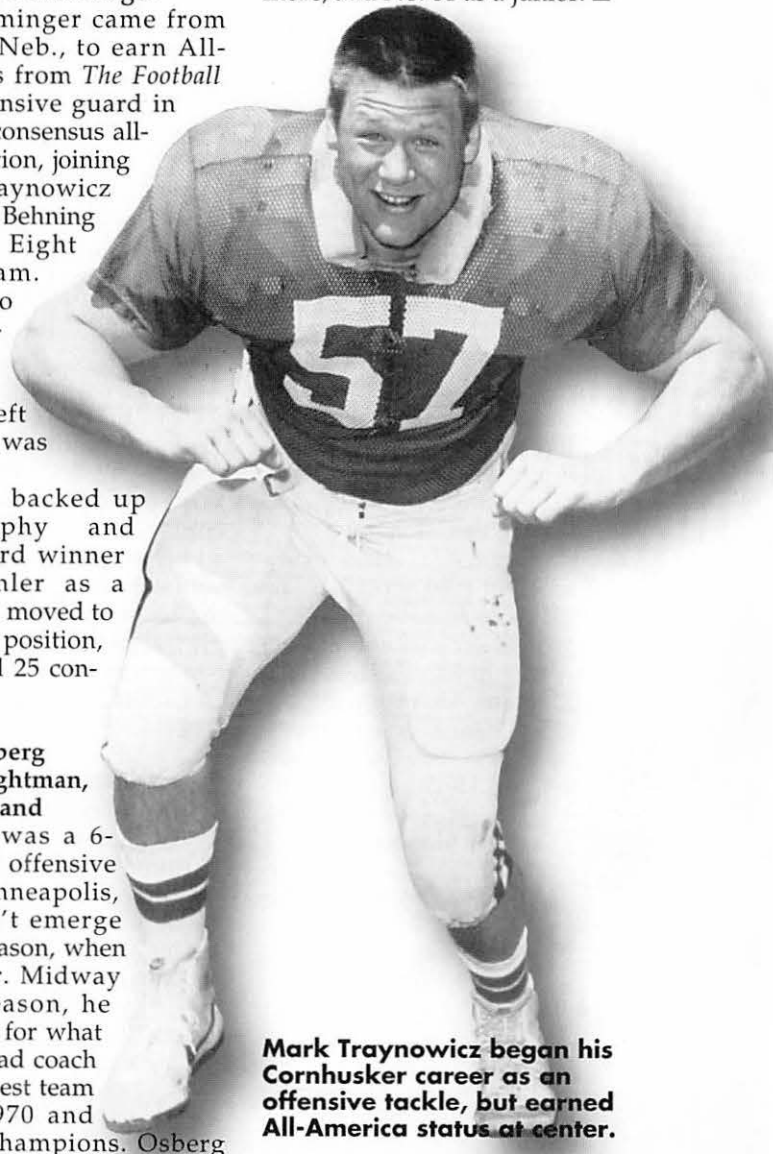
James Wightman (1975-77) and Curt Hineline (1979-81) are among the other Cornhuskers who have worn jersey No. 59. Wightman started at weakside linebacker as a sophomore and junior but was slowed by a knee injury as a senior which limited his playing time. Hineline was second-team All-Big Eight at middle guard as a junior, then alternated with Jeff Merrell in the middle as a senior.

Hineline, from Bellevue, Wash., also was a two-time academic all-conference honoree.

#### #60: Tom Novak

Novak, and no one else . . .

By the way, Trainwreck wore jersey No. 68 as a freshman and sophomore, and No. 61 as a junior. ■



**Mark Traynowicz began his Cornhusker career as an offensive tackle, but earned All-America status at center.**



# FIALA

From page 7

season as we prepared to play Kansas.

It was another battle, as Paul Rogers kicked a 55-yard field goal to help us to a 14-7 halftime lead. Kansas came back to take a 17-14 lead in the fourth quarter. Late in the quarter, we got the ball back on our own 12-yard line. From that point on, Nebraska football started its ascent to the top.

Our offense started 88 yards away from the endzone, against a tough Jayhawk defense. The big play of the game, probably more aptly described as the biggest play of the year, came on fourth-and-long near the NU 25-yard line. Jerry Tagge dropped back and threw a long pass to tight end Jim McFarland, who was sprinting down the east sideline. Mac was fast and tall, but he couldn't catch up to it. Overthrown. Game over. KU wins. But wait, yellow flags were flying all over the place.

Kansas was very upset. Mac was smiling. The call was pass interference on Kansas, and the ball was ours at the Jayhawk 45-yard line. The fireworks continued with a second eruption of yellow flags after Kansas linebacker Emory Hicks had a brief but animated discussion with the referee, and 15 more yards were tacked on to our already favorable field position for unsportsmanlike conduct. The story was, Emory questioned the official's ancestry. Nebraska's ball was put at the KU 30-yard line, first-and-10.

Emotion, momentum and great offense moved the ball down the field, and Jeff Kinney took it in with 1:22 left on the clock. Game on. NU won and the foundation had been laid.

We went on to win the final six games that season to get back on the bowl track, with a 45-6 victory against Georgia in the Sun Bowl. The Huskers went on to win 30 games, with one tie, over the next two years and won national championships in 1970 and 1971.

Whenever I talk about our team or when we get together for team reunions, the 1969 Kansas game is always one of the first to be brought up, and "the play" is rerun, time after time. It just dawned on me, we never wrote Kansas a thank-you note. So Rock Chalk, Jayhawk . . . thank youuuuu . . . KU. ■



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# Authentic Nebraska Athletic Department Products

## Big Red Boulevard

Located beneath the South Stadium, this walkway is the path which leads the Huskers from the locker room to Memorial Stadium. We invite you to have a name engraved in one of the boulevard's bricks. With your help we can continue the proud tradition of Nebraska football.

## 1995 Team Photos

A color team picture with a printed heading stating the year and the record of each team, is also available for each championship team. Pictures were taken prior to the start of the season in full uniform. Cost of both the football team photo and volleyball team photo is \$10 each.

## Autographed Volleyball and Football

Authentic autographed balls contain signatures of the 1995 national championship volleyball team (\$50) and the 1995 national championship football team (\$100). Both balls are pre-printed with autographs of every team member and contain the official University championship logo.

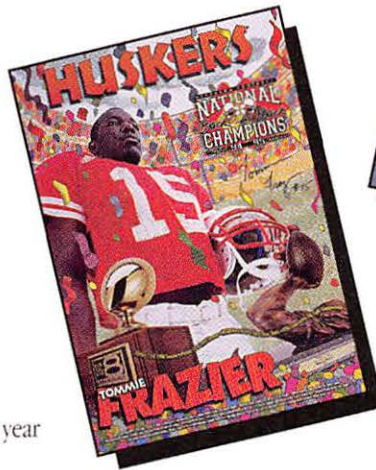


## HuskerVision Videos

Videos highlighting the Nebraska volleyball and football national championship seasons, as well as the bowl trip again are available as produced by HuskerVision. This is the only video that gets you into the locker room for pre and

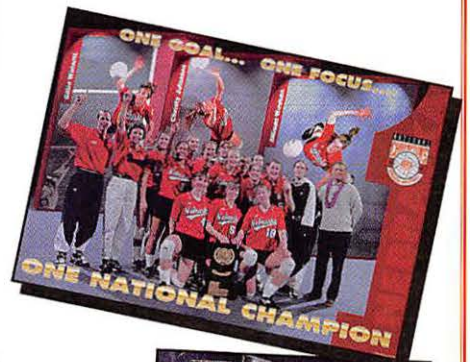


postgame speeches. Last year's season highlight tape and national championship videos for football are also available. All videos cost \$20 each.



## National Championship & Tommie Frazier Posters:

National championship posters were produced commemorating both the football and volleyball championship seasons. The official championship poster produced by the Husker Athletic Department, is the only one featuring game action photos of the Husker stars. The 1995 national championship poster costs \$10 and one free 1994 national championship poster will be mailed at no charge with every poster order. You can also obtain an original Tommie Frazier poster commemorating the former outstanding Husker quarterback and 1995 senior. The Tommie Frazier and championship volleyball poster cost \$10 each.



## Stickers & Pins

Car window stickers and stickers for notebooks and non-weathered materials are available for each championship team. The logo commemorating each championship season is also available as a collar/hat pin.

Approximate size of both stickers is 5" x 3 1/2", while the pins are approximately 1" x 1". Stickers are \$1 each, pins are \$5.

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